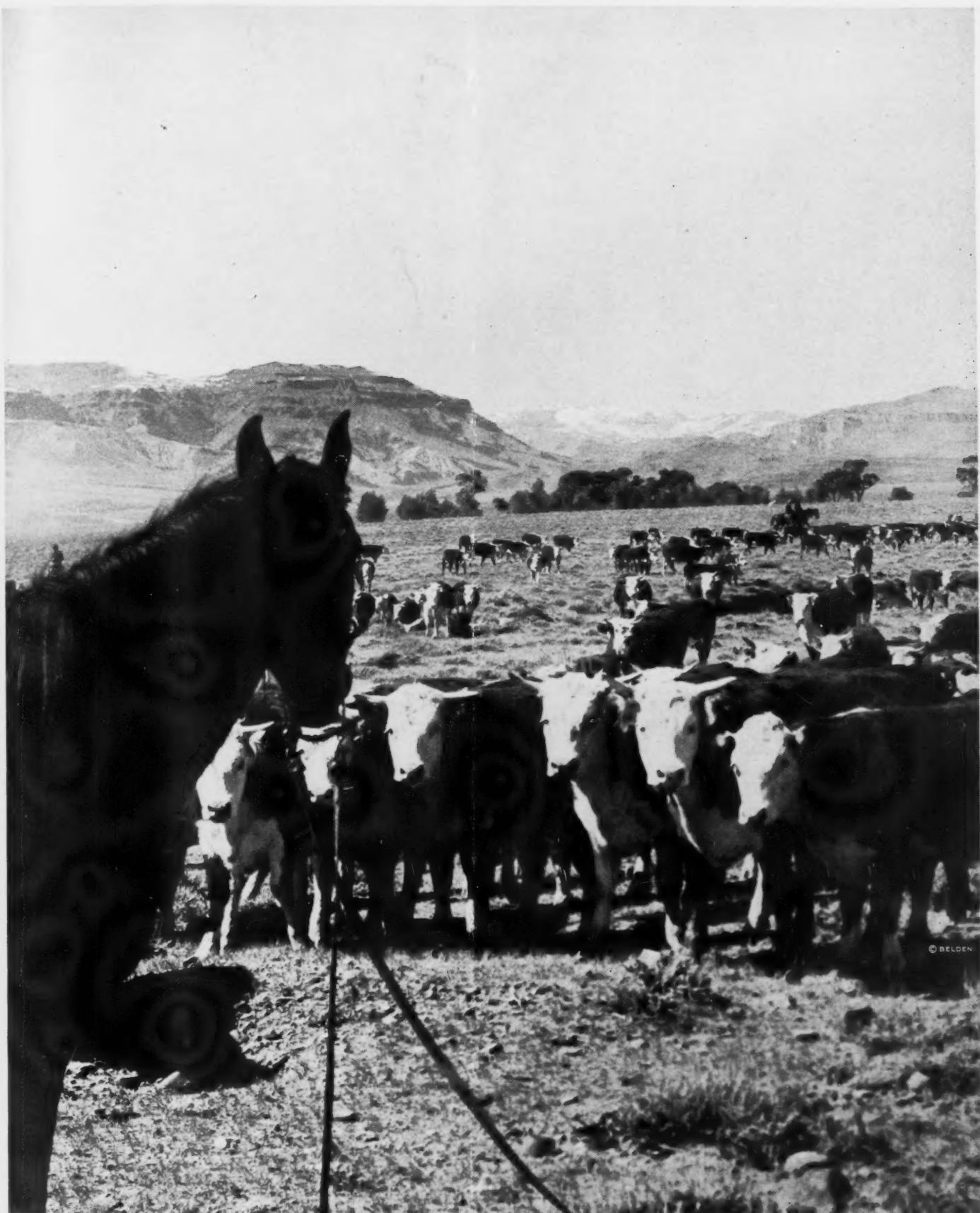


# AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



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SEPTEMBER 1939

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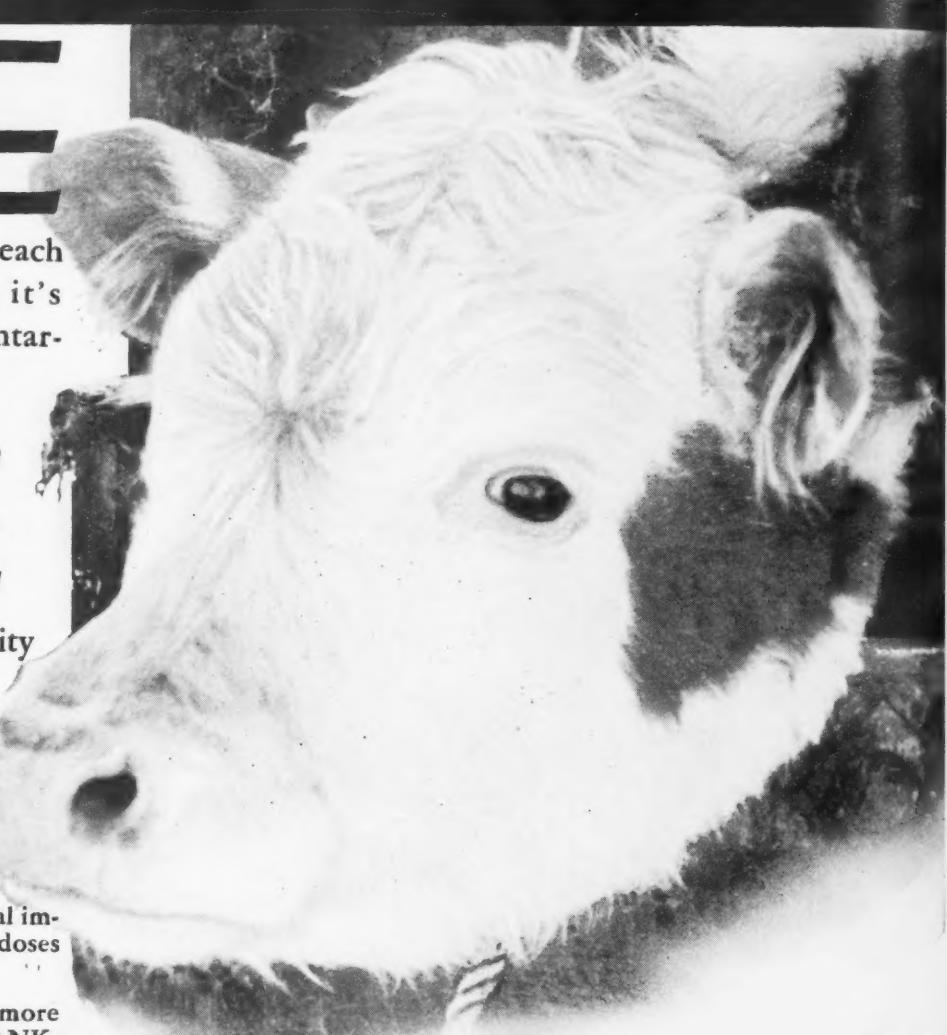


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# AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Volume XXI

SEPTEMBER, 1939

Number 4

## CRESTED WHEATGRASS RIDES THE RANGE

BY IVY M. HOWARD

IT'S A STORY OF ADVENTURE, OF an explorer with dreams, of searches into far countries; a story of seeds shipped on the high seas, of experimental plantings, of blizzards and low temperatures, of the Siberian-found plant's survival on the northern Great Plains—the story of crested wheatgrass.

Back in 1898 when a young man booked passage on an eastbound Atlantic Ocean-crossing boat to make the first plant exploration trip ever sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture he was thrilled, but he could not have known what far-reaching results the trip would have. Off the high roads into the byways of Russia and Siberia the young man trekked, searching constantly for grasses and the other forage plants new to the plains area. With him went only a guide and his dreams—dreams of helping the agriculture of the plains by finding plants that would defy the erratic actions of the weatherman.

In far-away Siberia he found growing, in an area where the mercury in the thermometer passes the red zero mark in its rush downward without so much as touching a brake, rushing right on down to the low forties, a grass with a crested top. Natives told him live stock liked it and thrived on it. Seeds were collected and shipped back to America to be planted in small test plots. Survival here, and growth, too, were excellent. That, in brief, is the background of the story of the grass that ranchers and agricultural leaders throughout the northern Great Plains are talking on street corners on Saturday afternoons and at boundary fences every day of the week. It is the beginning of a story started by Dr. N. E. Hansen, now professor emeritus of the horticulture department of the South Dakota State College of Agriculture, Brookings. The most interesting part of the story is yet to be told. Listen... Crested wheatgrass speaks for itself.

On thousands of acres in the northern Great Plains where grass was

plowed so that wheat might be planted for sale at the abnormally high World War prices, crested wheatgrass is proving a most profitable crop. As an erosion control plant it is excellent, furnishing cover to soil in periods of most intense winds and adding organic matter when plowed under that makes soil more absorptive. As a hay and pasture crop it is thought by many ranchers and agricultural leaders to be unequalled.

The cost of seeding crested wheatgrass is low. The method of seeding it is simple, and surprising is the fact that crested wheatgrass is an easy grass to establish in areas of limited rainfall.

Crested wheatgrass is a long-lived perennial bunch grass; it has an extensive root system; it is very drought-resistant, being capable of going into a dormant stage during extremely dry weather; and it is an early grass, producing palatable forage with a rela-

tively high protein content before seeding.

In twenty years of grazing tests conducted by the Ardmore Experiment Station in South Dakota crested wheatgrass had approximately two and one-half times the carrying capacity of native grasses. Experimental tests conducted at Moccasin and Havre, Montana; Mandan, North Dakota; Dickinson, North Dakota; and in Canada show that uniformly outstanding results have been obtained with crested wheatgrass.

On land utilization projects and on demonstration erosion control projects and CCC camp areas under the supervision of the Soil Conservation Service in the northern Great Plains region crested wheatgrass has constituted at least 50 per cent of the grass mixture used in seeding abandoned lands. Other grasses seeded with crested wheatgrass have been, in the main, western wheatgrass or brome grass. In many cases small quantities of sweet clover or alfalfa have been added to the mixture to increase the value of forage and to add nitrogen to the soil. A common mixture used in reseeding idle land is 3 pounds of crested wheatgrass, 2 pounds of western wheatgrass, and 1 pound of yellow blossom sweet clover per acre. In some cases 4 pounds of



S. C. S. Phot

Sod clumps of three strains of crested wheatgrass on a field two and one-half miles east of Mandan, South Dakota. The strains are, from left to right: Station, Fairway, Siberian.

crested wheatgrass was used with 1 pound of western wheatgrass.

The most satisfactory implement for seeding crested wheatgrass is a grain drill, with clover being seeded through a grass seeder attachment. It is recommended that when grass is to be drilled on the contour or in heavy stubble or on a weedy field, the single-disk, deep-furrow drill be used. This implement leaves larger furrows for the conservation of moisture. On light-textured soils or soil that is completely barren of cover, the deep-furrow drill is not recommended, as soil drifting often causes the seed to be too deeply covered.

Since crested wheatgrass is natively a cold-weather plant and seedlings may be killed by hot winds that strike them before the plant becomes well rooted, it is important that seeding be done at the proper time. Seedings may be made with most success from August 20 to September 20 provided there is ample moisture in the soil and grasshoppers are not prevalent; but, since on most parts of the Great Plains there is usually a shortage of moisture and an abundance of grasshoppers, the seeding date recommended is from about October 20 until the soil freezes in the late fall or early winter. April 20 is given as the approximate last date on which spring seeding can be expected to be successful.

Crested wheatgrass should be seeded shallowly. The seeds are small, there being some 200,000 seeds per pound, and the amount of stored-up food in the endosperm is very limited and will not furnish sufficient energy to push the seedlings through the deep cover of soil. The recommended depth of covering is about one-half inch.

Firm seed beds are essential to good stands of crested wheatgrass. Where the grass is to be seeded on an area covered by Russian thistles or other vegetation, it is not necessary to do any preparation for seeding prior to the time the grass is planted. If the soil is



Seeding crested wheatgrass on May 6, 1937, at the rate of six pounds per acre resulted in this growth at the Soil Conservation Service grass nursery at Lander, Wyoming, August 28 of the same year.

barren and drifting, it has been found that the best way of obtaining a stand of crested wheat is that of letting vegetation stabilize the soil before the crested wheatgrass is planted. Often the necessary vegetative cover can be obtained by drilling the field to small grain, preferably rye or Sudan grass. Where either of these crops are grown grass seeding operations can be done in the fall following the production of emergency cover crops.

To insure the success of crested wheatgrass after stands have been obtained, it is recommended that grazing be withheld the first year and until the grass has started growth in the spring of the second year. Experimental grass plot work in Nebraska indicates that undisturbed grass produces in a single growing season twelve times as many roots as similar grass plots continuously clipped during the first year's growth. The top growth is definitely dependent upon the root developments.

Crested wheatgrass properly planted and protected offers the solution to the erosion problem of millions of acres of

the northern Great Plains. It offers also the solution to the problem of obtaining increased forage. From the plains of Russia and Siberia the first plant explorer of the United States Department of Agriculture sent back seeds of grass that now has more than a million acres of land protected against the perpetual attack of wind and water, and it is felt by ranchers and agricultural leaders that there are millions of acres of additional land that can be made to produce a maximum income with a minimum amount of soil losses by being seeded to crested wheatgrass.

## NO GRAIN OF COMFORT IN FEDERAL FORECAST

BY JAMES E. POOLE

FROM WASHINGTON BUREAU-Democratic circles comes the doleful sound of further live-stock and meat depreciation prophecy.

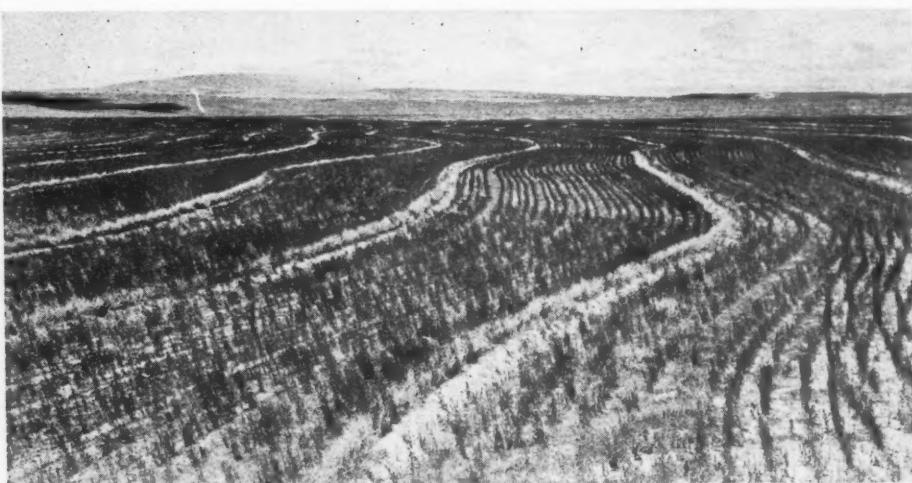
In a broadside forecast issued late in August, live-stock feeders cannot possibly extract a grain of comfort.

Following a disastrous depreciation, the blast is particularly depressing. The major basis is corn plenitude. The depreciation theory is that this corn will be converted into beef, pork, and lamb, creating excess supplies with all that condition involves or assures.

Not content with this guesstimate, the forecast assumes that "drought conditions in the western cattle- and sheep-breeding area are expected to affect marketing. Cattle, sheep and lambs normally fed in these regions will be marketed in large numbers."

The final stanza reads: "Total number of hogs, cattle, sheep, and other live stock on farms at the start of the new year will be larger than a year earlier."

While this lacks definition, it is not calculated to infuse live-stock feeders, now paying close to fat-stock prices in the replacement process, with enthusiasm or even confidence. The screed amounts to notification that replacement cost is



Contour seeding of crested wheatgrass is being practiced on thousands of acres of land taken out of cultivation in the northern Great Plains area. This picture was made near Roundup, Montana, on land purchased by the government to be kept permanently in grass.

on a dangerously high basis. Meanwhile another bureau is engaged in a strenuous effort, backed with public money, to increase meat-making costs.

#### Feeders Gloomy

Naturally gloom pervades live-stock feeding circles. The wonder is that demand for stock cattle and lambs has been maintained at current values, as neither market conditions, dressed or live, warrant the outlay. Necessity, rather than confidence, is the major factor.

Diverse theories exist as to the outcome of this season's cattle and lamb installation in feed-lots. Hogs grew on the farm, and there will be plenty of them. The Washington forecast conveys an implication of still lower prices, which are synonymous with plenitude. However, more than feed abundance is needed to insure excess meat production. Feeders' "intentions," a favorite bureaucratic expression, defy divination, but feeder psychology may be readily interpreted.

At the moment, this mental condition is far from optimistic. This assertion may be discredited by current high replacement cost of cattle and lambs, especially in a relative sense, as further depreciation in the finished branch of the trade will insure loss in the finality of the operation, but feed must be cashed and there is no tangible evidence that winter feeding of either cattle or lambs will prove to be in excess of the previous corresponding period when the BAI slaughter—the only reliable production record—becomes available.

Substantial increase in swine production is admitted, but the tonnage outcome is in serious doubt, as growers are disposed to cash the 1939 pig crop at light weight and in deficient condition—a danger sensed in Packingtown and which was responsible for the late August advance in heavy barrows and fat sows.

#### Off Weight

At this writing the country is definitely "off" weight. The recent price debacle has depopularized the big steer. Killers have served notice that they desire them not in considerable numbers, and it is probable that feeders will heed the warning—for at least a brief period, as human memory is proverbially short.

Several developments in live-stock production are possible. These include:

General sealing of corn on government loans to an extent that will take a large percentage of the holdover and new crop—approximately 3,000,000,000 bushels—out of circulation by diverting grain from processing and feed-lot channels. This would have the logical effect of advancing feed-lot gain cost and dislodging both cattle and hogs at deficient weight and short of condition, temporarily swelling supply, if not creating gluts and further depressing prices.

Such premature marketing of either or both species would impair confidence, exerting a depressing influence on winter and spring replacement.

Current cattle and lamb replacement

cost, close to, if not in excess of, fat-stock prices, has no justification other than grass and roughage plenitude, necessitating using live stock to salvage it.

Lush pastures practically everywhere east of the Missouri River have exerted a potent influence in sustaining replacement values, incidentally effecting enormous corn salvage. Otherwise cutting into the new crop would have been necessary. Such salvage amounts to 5 per cent of the crop.

Cattle on pastures are making cheap gains. Tucked into dry-lots when winter comes around, they will flesh up rapidly on new corn, getting in shape for the beef-rail during the January-to-March period, and if the market is in a receptive mood they will go to town.

#### Expensive Experience

Ask ten feeders if they intend to carry new-crop steers into weight, and nine will reply in the negative. Their gizzards are sore over this season's experience with bullocks weighing 1,200 to 1,500 pounds, now selling anywhere from \$8.75 to \$9.50, which are expensive to make. Dodging this operation will not be conducive to heavy corn consumption.

Relatively few heavy steers, 800 pounds up, are going or have gone to feed-lots currently. Killers can use them to advantage at the prices, and nine out of ten beef-makers insist on taking 250- to 650-pound calves and yearlings at substantially higher investment cost. These little cattle will be wintered on short corn rations, the destiny of at least 60 per cent being summer pastures. Expansion of grazing acreage everywhere east of the Missouri River must be reckoned with. Temporarily at least it favors the western commercial breeder by creating broader demand for calves and light yearlings. The ultimate result is beyond ken, and there is possibility if not probability of swelling breeding operations, retarded by high cost and scarcity of western beef-bred cows, the only source of supply. The Middle West and East, dependent solely on natural local increase, will consume a long period getting back into beef cattle to the extent it was fifty years ago.



"THIS IS THE NEW SUIT THE HOME RELIEF GAVE PAW"

Deducting light yearlings and calves, not likely to figure in the beef supply of the first half of 1940, it is doubtful if visible supply of beef during that period will be excessive, especially if current prices are not low enough to stimulate liquidation. Recent slumps in fat-cattle prices may be attributed largely, if not wholly, to a slight excess in supply, measured by trade requirements. Formerly this supply would not have been excessive, but consumers have switched.

Once the surplus of long-fed steers is out of the way, tonnage will decrease and constipation in beef distribution channels get relief. Hog prices may advance, affording beef stronger play at the final stage of marketing the product. When prices go down, pessimism runs riot; but, on a rise, enthusiasm generates. Should the trade run into a crop of merely warmed-up steers during the next sixty days the atmosphere will change, and in this speculation shortage of grass beef must be reckoned with.

#### Grass Beef Light

Grass steers and cows have exerted a depressing influence on prices of short-fed steers these many years past. Killers could go to the freezer with unlimited quantities, tucking it away to be exhumed late in the winter, exerting a depressing influence for a second time. This season's grass-beef tonnage will be the lightest in many years, and the bulk of it will go into immediate consumption, broad demand existing for the cheaper grades of beef.

Short grass beef production last fall prevented normal storage and was largely responsible for the high market for warmed-up steer during the first quarter of 1939, when a poor drove of cattle realized more money, gross or net, than a good load at midsummer. With that experience green in memory, feeders will chase warmed-up steers to the butcher right after the turn of the year if they get their investment back, plus a feed bill, which is all the majority expects. At that stage eastern buyers will ride their horses lame in quest of a drove of the type of 1,200- to 1,400-pound bullocks they are now bagging at \$9 to \$9.50 per cwt.

Assuming that this happens, the bureau theory that beef-making will reduce the corn surplus promises to be a mere phantasy. The bad medicine feeders swallowed during July and August this year will prompt them to dodge another dose of the same brand of lightning. Along next spring, having jettisoned their winter cattle at light weight, they will be in the market for another "buy," especially should they pocket a little money on the first transaction. Cattle are not being conditioned to make profits nowadays—merely to recover the investment and market the feed at a price impossible otherwise.

#### Raw Guessing

Forestalling a high stocker market next spring, thousands of farmer feeders will not figure in the role of beef-makers

during the coming winter. Instead of full feeds of corn, they will carry calves and yearlings through the winter on three to four pounds of grain daily. Many will feed only sheaf oats, unthreshed soy bean hay, and silage, with the possible addition of a dose of blackstrap molasses. This reduces cost to a minimum, puts the operator where he is not under the necessity of scrambling for summer pasture cattle, and utilizes otherwise worthless feed. The old-time method of counting tails during the fall replacement season—if a count was ever possible—is history. Under new conditions only guessing can be done concerning the number of cattle in feeders' hands—and most of it is raw guessing. Recent discrepancy between estimates and slaughter figures makes argument on this subject worthless. There is merit in contention that excessive estimates militate against values.

Provided growers get enough for hogs to pay well for the board bill, they will feed out; otherwise sacrifice at light weight is inevitable. That a 20 per cent increase in swine numbers means a similar increase in corn consumption is absurd, a strong probability existing that reduced weight will actually curtail the aggregate ration.

Sheep and lambs fed during the winter do not consume sufficient grain to make a substantial hole in the pile. That winter feeding will be substantially larger than last year is an assertion not to be taken seriously, and if the January-to-April market is receptive killers will get the bulk of the crop at 90 to 95 pounds, as the moment they get a few overweights in the run they penalize hefty.

Dependence on increased meat production to dissipate excess corn stalks is a phantasy. Only a drought next year will accomplish that, and in the scheme of nature four successive big corn crops are not impossible.

## TUMBLEWEEDS PROVIDE HAY AND ANCHORAGE

**T**UMBLING TUMBLEWEEDS, perhaps better known as Russian thistles, are coming to be looked upon as an asset rather than a liability in the southern Great Plains where memories of the Dust Bowl still are fresh.

Back in the days of black blizzards and choking dust storms, the strong winds which lifted the soil also snapped the dry thistles from their moorings and sent them bouncing crazily across fields, pastures, and roads to lodge against barbed-wire fences, buildings, or other obstructions. With thistles piling up against such objects, it was not long before the wind-driven soil accumulated in vast quantities to create large fence-row drifts, hummocks, and even sand dunes.

But today, the Soil Conservation Service reports, many farmers of the Panhandle of Texas and Oklahoma, eastern Colorado, eastern New Mexico, and



When Russian thistles are permitted to attain their full growth and become dry, they are easily snapped off by strong winds which prevail in the southern Great Plains during the winter and spring. With their anchorage broken, the thistles soon go tumbling across fields to lodge against fences. Unprotected fields then suffer soil losses and the blowing soil accumulates in the thistle piles to create fence-row drifts. This picture shows how thistles pile up against a fence.

western Kansas have learned that by mowing the thistles while still green they can provide hay which will carry their live stock through a hard winter, and that the thistle roots and stubble left on the ground will retain their anchorage against the force of strong winds and thereby provide protection for the soil.

In feeding Russian thistles to live stock it is necessary that the farmer use good judgment, because in some cases serious digestive disturbances have been caused by the feeding of Russian thistles. The soil conservation specialists also state that thistle stubble on the ground does not provide as much protection against wind erosion as do sorghum crops, but they are much better than no cover in this respect.

Tests made on the Soil Conservation Service erosion control demonstration project at Clayton, New Mexico, show that stubble left on the ground when thistles are cut with a mower usually will resist the force of the wind throughout the winter and spring. D. Y. Sowers, a co-operator on the Clayton project, has been following the practice of mowing thistles for hay throughout the drought years. Besides retaining a cover on the ground which has protected

his farm from wind erosion damage, he annually has obtained enough hay materially to aid in carrying 100 head of live stock through the winter.

Several farmers and small cattlemen in the Dalhart, Texas, area have been following the practice of harvesting thistle hay for years. Jack Mullins, a cattle-man, has harvested thirty tons this year, and Cecil Jones, another Dalhart cattle-man, reports that he stored thistle hay in his silo and found that it provided a fair grade of feed for his live stock.

Soil Conservation Service representatives in northern Colorado report that farmers in that section have been harvesting thistles for hay for the last twenty-five years or longer.

Russian thistle seed was introduced in this country from the dry plains of Siberia in 1873, according to reports of the Hays, Kansas, experiment station. Since that time the Russian thistle has become common in the semi arid states.

Various agricultural agencies have made exhaustive tests in the use of thistles for stock feed. Lamb feeding experiments conducted at Akron, Colorado, indicate that Russian thistles compare favorably with cane fodder. Tests in Kansas have been favorable for thistles as cattle feed but indicate that when the



Here is the result of accumulation of thistles along a fence. Blowing soil caught in the pile of thistles has created a drift almost as high as the fence. This drift has spread into the adjacent road until traffic has been impaired.

plants are hard they should be ground and soaked before feeding. Tests at Miles City, Montana, indicate that thistle hay has about half the value of good alfalfa and that best results are obtained by using it as about 50 per cent of the roughness ration. Other tests in this state show that good thistle hay will carry cattle through the winter in good condition.

Russian thistle hay is high in protein and mineral salts and low in carbohydrates. When cut in the bloom it contains as much protein as alfalfa but from 10 to 15 per cent less digestible nutrients.

Tests to determine the value of thistles as a source for ensilage show that much depends on the time of harvesting, manner of storing, and upon the grain or cottonseed ration used when the ensilage is fed. The general opinion is that Russian thistles have their greatest value when fed as hay.

Regardless of their efficiency as feed when compared with high-priced alfalfa, Soil Conservation Service workers declare that a few stacks of the lowly thistles, with sunflowers mixed in, for that matter, will look mighty good to any stockman when other feed reserves are low and the ground is under a deep blanket of snow. Also, they point out, every clipped thistle is one that will not blow against a fence to lay the foundation for a soil drift.

Summer rains over most of the southern Great Plains have been sufficient to produce a heavy growth of thistles on fields where crops are not being produced, it is pointed out.

Probably the best time to harvest thistles for hay is within the next few weeks, and, where there is a heavy stand, from a ton to a ton and a half of cured hay should be available to the acre.

The quality of hay is best if the plants are harvested while in the bloom stage, because the spines have not hardened at this time. If harvested after the plants are woody, the spines are hard and the hay is fibrous and not so palatable. Plants should be cut and stacked green, for the stiffness will permit sufficient air circulation properly to cure the hay.

## COLORADO SAN LUIS VALLEY BODY MEETS

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE San Luis Valley Stock Growers' Association was held at Alamosa, Colorado, on July 29.

The meeting was ushered in by a good rain which rather generally covered the valley and surrounding mountain ranges. The fact that the valley was facing one of the most serious droughts in its recent history made the rain even more welcome. Attendance was very gratifying, and the intense interest shown in live-stock problems accounts for the fine work of the San Luis Valley Stock Growers' Association. A nice luncheon, served in the dining room of the Walsh Hotel, was enjoyed by everyone and paved the way for a fine meeting afterward.

President Collins opened with a report on the Colorado state association convention in Montrose, where Howard Linger, a member of the San Luis Valley Association, was named state association vice-president. George M. Corlett, attorney from Monte Vista, recognized as a Colorado authority on water and irrigation matters, gave a fine talk on the proposed Wagon Wheel Gap and Conejos reservoirs. He also discussed the various changes in the cattle industry in the past years which have necessitated the use of more water because of increased feeding. He mentioned the fact that there are 2,000,000 acres of land in the valley and a water supply for about 600,000 acres, which means that everyone must co-operate and reservoirs must be obtained in order to provide sufficient supply.

F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, reviewed the general cattle situation. He pointed out that the market has been favorable the past few years due to the drought in 1934 and the subsequent below-normal slaughter of cattle, and stated that one of the most serious factors facing the cattle market was the increased hog production. Mr. Mollin also made the point that the AAA program is placing considerable acreage into forage crops, which makes a demand for feeder

sheep and cattle but that the situation will bear watching, due to increase of imports and pork production. He also reviewed the reciprocal trade program, showing that it has so far failed to provide an export market for surplus agricultural products. In fact, he used government figures to show that, to the contrary, our imports recently have been increasing. He also mentioned the amendment to the Taylor Grazing Act, which makes specific legal provision for the advisory boards. This amendment was sponsored by the American National Live Stock Association. He also touched briefly on the Bang's disease program, stating that the results of the government vaccine experiments carried on on a five-year basis should be awaited as the basis for deciding on a definite program. Other subjects touched on were the Argentine sanitary convention, which has so far been successfully pigeon-holed, the stocker and feeder 85 per cent case, in which a favorable decision is expected in the very near future, and the proposed transfer of the Forest Service or the public domain.

Dr. R. M. Gow, of Denver, state veterinarian, discussed the improvements in inspection at the stock yards. Difficulties are still encountered in stopping stolen cattle, due primarily to failure to record brands and in some instances unwillingness to prosecute. Colorado, he said, is in an enviable position relative to disease problems. He said there was practically no scab at all among Colorado cattle. He brought up the pressing problem created for Colorado cattlemen under Nebraska's embargo against Colorado female cattle untested for Bang's disease. He expressed the hope that this ruling would be modified. F. E. Mollin stated that he would be glad to take the matter up with the Nebraska officials.

Forrest Bassford, of the *Hereford Journal*, addressed the meeting briefly on his various travels and the continued need for developing better quality cattle.

Lawrence F. Mollin, of the American National Live Stock Association, addressed the group, calling their attention to the PRODUCER and a proposed junior stockmen's department to be inaugurated some time this fall. He urged that all who do not now obtain the PRODUCER should do so, as it gives the stockmen all the news and information of state-wide and national character.

C. P. Jensen, of Manassa, was named president for the coming year, and Charles R. Swift, manager of the Colorado Land Company, Center, became vice-president. W. S. Whitman, LaJara, was named a director at large, and the following county directors were named: Robert Peterson, for Conejos; W. R. Shellabarger, for Saguache; Louis Higel, for Alamosa; E. E. Brown, for Costilla; and Henry McNeil, for Rio Grande.

The stockmen posted a \$300 reward for information leading to arrest and conviction of stock rustlers. The reward applies to stock owned by a member of the association.



Farmers of the plains now are finding that by mowing the thistles while still green they can provide a fair grade of hay for their live stock. At the same time, clipping of the thistles prevents them from being snapped off by the wind and results in good cover being provided during the period of high winds. On this field thistles have been cut for hay and a protective ground cover has been provided.

## DEATH AND CRIPPLING IN LIVE STOCK SHIPPING

**G**REATER CARE IN ASSEMBLING, loading, and transporting live stock to market and in handling the animals after they arrive can be expected to reduce materially present losses from death and crippling, according to the booklet, "Death and Crippling in Live Stock Marketing," issued by the agricultural experiment station of the University of Minnesota.

The study upon which the booklet is based indicates that losses are influenced by the type of transportation, the season of the year, the species, class, and condition of live stock, and the care exercised in handling.

The recent period of expansion in the trucking territory of the South St. Paul market, it is stated, was found to have been accompanied by an upward trend in the percentage of death losses and crippled animals in stock delivered by truck (except cattle in the latter case) up to the time of unloading. The trend in rail shipments was downward except that death losses in cattle and crippled losses in hogs remained about constant, and crippled losses in calves increased.

For 1936 and 1937 losses were greater in truck shipments than in rail for cattle, sheep, and lambs, about the same for hogs, and much less in truck shipments than in rail in calves. In truck and rail combined, there were from two to three times as many cripples as dead animals among hogs and cattle, but in sheep, lambs, and calves the dead were from two to three times as numerous as cripples. Calves exceeded sheep and lambs in deaths on arrival, and ranked twice as high as hogs and five times as high as cattle. In the per cent of cripples, hogs were three times cattle, four times calves, and five times as high as sheep and lambs.

Most of the deaths and crippling—between 60 and 80 per cent—occurred before unloading, except in the case of calves; but "a considerable share of the animals reported as cripples in the yards probably had suffered previous injury or were not in a thrifty condition."

Significant seasonal variations were found in losses from death and crippling for each kind of live stock.

Losses from death and crippling up to time of unloading in shipments from Minnesota points showed no consistent relationship to distance transported. This was probably due to differences in class, type, age, and condition of the stock shipped from the different districts. For example, it is probable that a higher proportion of mixed shipments and a higher proportion of discarded dairy cows and veal calves come from nearby zones than from the more distant zones. For shorter hauls it is also likely that less attention was given to careful loading and to the type of equipment used.

For truck shipments, the booklet makes

these suggestions, "based largely upon findings of the workers:"

1. Do not feed excessively before loading. Light or normal feeding preferred.
2. Use well-cleated, gently sloping chute in loading at your farm or local shipping point. Locate chute on high, well-drained ground.
3. Back truck squarely up against loading chute.
4. Use sand or fine gravel for bedding to insure good footing. Cover sand well with straw in winter months for all species. Light straw covering may be used in summer for all species except hogs.
5. In shipping hogs in hot weather, wet down sand before loading; shower hogs with water en route.
6. Remove from truck all protruding nails, bolts, broken boards, and other projections.
7. Allow height in lower deck sufficient to permit animals to stand in natural position.
8. Use cleated chutes in unloading hogs, calves, and sheep and lambs from double deck. Do not drop or permit jumping from upper to lower deck.
9. Do no overload. Losses are lower in compact than in crowded or light loads.
10. Partition small from large animals. Tie bulls.
11. Provide cover against extreme heat or cold. Provide proper ventilation in hot weather.
12. Avoid sudden stops. Slow down on sharp curves.
13. Inspect load frequently en route to see that animals are not down or piled up.
14. Avoid rough handling. Use canvas slappers instead of clubs or whips. Do not lift sheep or lambs by wool.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

**A** RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE Rio Blanco Stock Growers' Association, meeting in July at Meeker, Colorado, asked that the Forest Service and the Division of Grazing survey the wild life problem in the White River section and present a plan for management in the district "in order to prevent the unwarranted reduction of permits and licenses of live-stock growers." Stating that effort has been made to create in official circles the idea that producers of the White River drainage favored reductions in their permits within the White River National Forest in order to supply more forage to deer and elk, and that "the Izaak Walton League, having had such a policy brought to their attention during their state convention . . . requested the Forest Service to effect those reductions," the resolution declared that "the idea is erroneous and viciously opposed to the economic balance of this entire community." It was suggested that the Izaak Walton League "participate in the study of the problem in order that it shall have first-hand knowledge of the adequacy of the provisions that have been made and other phases of the wild life situation."

## TOO MUCH OF WASHINGTON

President J. A. Reed predicted in his address to the convention of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association recently that wool prices "should hold well" next year if there is no marked slump in consumption and barring tariff reductions. Low inventories will absorb all this year's carryover before next year's crop is available, he said. "Less than 10 per cent of our business is export, and if we lost it all it would not be a drop in the bucket compared with our loss by a foreign entanglement. In my opinion, we would be much better off to devote more effort within ourselves to the improvement of domestic markets and thereby keep out of the other fellow's military maneuvers, with the loss of billions of dollars, to say nothing of the loss of our youth with its attendant monetary loss." Byron Wilson, secretary of the association, declared that wool growers did too much looking to Washington. He said the growers were "inconsistent," and that if they wanted the government to decrease expenditures they should not ask for appropriations. Wilson said the nation would be better off if its citizens did not receive any subsidies and if it could bring about a corresponding decrease in appropriations for federal and state governments alike.

## COLORADO WOOLMEN

Colorado wool growers in convention in Glenwood Springs elected Mike Noonan, of Kremmling, as president of their organization. Bert Haigler, of Monte Vista, and Steward Hoffman, of Montrose, were elected vice-presidents; and W. C. Osborn, of Fruita, was re-named secretary-treasurer. Main speaker was O. B. Jesness, agricultural economist of the University of Minnesota. F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, denounced reciprocal trade treaties as detrimental to the live-stock industry. L. M. Pexton, general manager of the Denver Union Stock Yard Company, discussed lamb marketing.

## SHOW AND MEETING COMBINED

The McCurtain County Live Stock Association when it holds its annual meeting at Broken Bow, Oklahoma, on September 8 and 9 will combine it with a live-stock show and rodeo as an added attraction to an already fine program. F. E. Mollin, of Denver, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, is slated as principal speaker on the program.

## ARIZONA WOOLMEN MEET

Woolmen of Arizona, meeting in July at Flagstaff, adopted resolutions opposing transfer of Forest Service from its present department, asked exemption from labor and wage-hour laws of "range and ranch labor, including sheep shearers;" opposed concession in wool sched-

ules in any future reciprocal trade pact; opposed government ownership of railroads; opposed extension of "land for the protection of game and wild life grazing, national parks, and other similar purposes;" opposed the Argentine sanitary convention; opposed processing taxes or further increase in costs of government; asked that the building of fences be included as an approved range program practice.

#### CALIFORNIA MEETINGS

San Luis Obispo County, California, cattlemen heard Hubbard Russell, president of the American National Live Stock Association, and Secretary John Curry of the California Cattlemen's Association. A resolution adopted opposed any law which would permit persons to kill calves at home and sell the meat to hotels, restaurants, peddlers, and retailers. . . . Members of the Santa Clara County Cattlemen's Association meeting July 22 elected J. W. Sheldon, of Madrone, president.

#### OKLAHOMA SECRETARY NAMED

J. H. Johnston has been selected as secretary of the Oklahoma Live Stock Growers' Association. For twenty-one years he was secretary of the Oklahoma Cotton Crushers' Association. Headquarters of the organization will be 210 Live Stock Exchange Building, Oklahoma City. Henry Price, of Addington, is president; Wayne Rowe, of Lawton, first vice-president; and Harry Thompson, of Mill Creek, second vice-president.

#### FOREST SERVICE REPORTS ON FORAGE GRASS TEST

A FINAL REPORT ON A FORAGE-grass clipping experiment begun in 1925 on the Jornada Experimental Range in the heart of the semidesert range lands of the Southwest and carried on without interruption for eleven years by Forest Service ecologists has been prepared by the Forest Service. It is Technical Bulletin 681, entitled "The Effect of Intensity and Frequency of Clipping on Density and Yield of Black Grama and Tobosa Grass." The Jornada Range in New Mexico is a branch of the Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station, conducted in co-operation with the University of Arizona at Tucson.

Black grama and tobosa grass are generally regarded as the most important forage for beef cattle on the 14,000,000 acres of semidesert range lands in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and southern Utah.

"To be successful," says the report, "management of this type of year-long range must recognize the seasonal palatabilities and resistance to grazing of these two forage grasses, and grazing must be conducted in a manner that will

allow the grasses to maintain their vigor and required rate of reproduction."

Black grama particularly is held by Forest Service range specialists to be practically an essential to sound land use and profitable operation in the livestock business in the Southwest because of its wide occurrence on the semidesert ranges, its year-long dependability as forage, and its high value as a soil protector. The clipping experiments were designed to shed light on how closely these important grasses could be cropped year after year without being killed off. Once these grasses are dead, lands become eroded, wind-blown, and useless for grazing or are taken over by other and less valuable forage plants such as "three-awns, burro grass, fluffgrass, and snakeweed."

For the experiments the investigators selected pure stands of the two grasses, on typical southwest range where the average rainfall is around ten inches and the topsoil thin and easily eroded. Divided into plots, the grasses were clipped regularly, each plot to a different height and on a different schedule for eleven years.

The report points out that proper grazing, that is, grazing which gets maximum forage value without destroying the grass and hence the soil by overgrazing, utilizes about 50 per cent of the total black grama growth in a stand on a weight basis by the end of the growing season, but that it is best not to take more than 35 per cent of this valuable grass on overgrazed and run-down range land. Fifty per cent by weight means, roughly, that the grass is cropped no closer to the soil than 2 or 3 inches, with at least one-fifth of the grama flower stalks ungrazed.

As for tobosa, the experimenters found that clipping or cropping this grass down to two inches is apt to kill the growth and turn the land into slick and sterile clay flats, but that clipping or cropping to four inches, while allowing a high yield of summer forage, actually increases the growth and thickness of the grass tufts.

Technical Bulletin No. 681 is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at 5 cents a copy.

#### CCC SUPERVISOR LISTS IMPROVEMENTS ON RANGE

PRIOR TO PASSAGE OF THE TAYlor Grazing Act in 1934, says C. K. Caron, of the CCC, writing in "Grazing Bulletin," there were practically no improvements on the public domain constructed under federal supervision; but since inception of the Division of Grazing plans for better utilization of the range and conservation and improvement of the natural resources have been formulated. "Local stockmen users of the range," he says, "have aided materially in developing the program, and contemplated work projects bear the recommendation of the district advisory board

chairman or his authorized representative before being approved by the regional grazier.

In April, 1935, seven CCC camps were assigned to the Division of Grazing for range improvement work. This number was increased during the year to forty-five camps. In 1938 forty-five additional camps were assigned to the division. The distribution of the camps in the nine grazing regions was made primarily on a combined acreage and live-stock unit basis and is as follows: Utah, 15 camps; Nevada and California, 19; Oregon, 9; Idaho, 10; Montana, 5; New Mexico, 10; Colorado, 8; Arizona, 5; Wyoming, 9.

Among the major conservation accomplishments under this program, Mr. Caron lists the completed projects:

358 spring developments; 143 wells with storage facilities; 780 earth reservoirs; 7,300,000 acres rodent control; 1,950 miles range fences; 225 corrals; 1,750 miles stock trails and driveways; 4,900 miles truck trails including 185 bridges and 245 cattleguards; 330,000 acres poisonous plant eradication; erosion control work involving 5,600 permanent check dams; 4,700 temporary check dams; and 275 other flood control structures.

"In addition to the above we have rendered great assistance to stockmen during severe snowstorms and participated in flood-relief work, fire fighting, and the eradication of destructive insects," Mr. Caron adds.

#### NEVADA FARMERS TESTING NEW ALFALFA VARIETY

TO DETERMINE ITS ADAPTATION to Nevada soil and climatic conditions, a number of farmers in the state are planting Ladak alfalfa, a new variety from India, in co-operation with the University of Nevada agricultural extension service.

On the basis of tests in other western states, Ladak is said to give promise of being well adapted to Nevada conditions.

Where the climate is severe, it is reported to grow as well as, or better than, other varieties, and, where the rainfall is limited, as in Nevada, Ladak is said to be somewhat hardier than the other commercial varieties. It also does well where the moisture is more abundant.

First cuttings in field tests have been heavier than with other hardy varieties and strains, but later ones are said to be somewhat under those of other varieties. Total yields for the season, nevertheless, have been reported to equal or exceed those of other varieties.

In some cases, Ladak is said to be of a finer quality and has given evidence of capacity to produce heavier crops of seed than other commercial varieties. It requires practically the same soil and climatic conditions as

ordinary alfalfa. It is said to be relatively more resistant than other varieties to bacterial wilt, which has been ravaging the fields of Nevada hay growers in some sections of the state.

In previous tests in Nevada, Ladak has shown some merit, but it has also revealed a tendency to lodge, on account of its fine stems.

#### UTAH ASSOCIATION HEAD REVIEWS PROBLEMS

PRESIDENT L. C. MONTGOMERY, in a letter to cattlemen July 1 on affairs of the Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' Association, said that big game in Utah will show a substantial net gain for the year. Speaking of the Fishlake forest, he said that big game increased since 1920 from 15,000 head to 50,000 head, whereas cattle on the area decreased from 37,900 to 21,846 head, "and this is equally true in other parts of the state."

He advised cattlemen to refuse to permit the shortening of their grazing seasons on the forest. He said, "I think that forest officials generally are taking advantage of the game situation as well as stimulated use of the range for recreational purposes to hold us off the range in the spring of the year."

On the question, "Department of the

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Interior or Department of Agriculture, which?" it is stated: "Personally I do not care which department administers grazing so long as we have a voice in saying how it is administered and what fees we will be expected to pay." Until the showdown comes, cattlemen should take no stand, he urged.

Utah's live stock, he said, should be improved. "The quality of our dairy cattle has improved greatly in the past ten years, and we can improve the quality of our beef cattle if we will only pay more attention to it."

He asked that cattlemen co-operate with officials under the brand inspection law being put into operation in the northern part of the state. He realized that some were not in sympathy with the regulations imposed by the law, but "since a majority seems to have wanted it and have written it into the law, we should do what we can to get the most out of it."

Boundary line questions, involving such things as grazing, brand inspection, assessments, tariffs, etc., he believed could all in time be worked out under co-operative agreements with the various bordering states.

Problems before the industry are being watched and handled in the interest of the cattlemen by both state and national organizations, he declared. "We are constantly watching for national affairs affecting our grazing on the forests and on the public domain. We are now going to fight the state land board on its proposed price of grazing on state lands in this state. We have got continuously to carry on a campaign to educate the people to eat more meat and use more live-stock products. We have got to see that the wage-and-hour laws do not affect the cattle industry. We must see that ridiculous regulations on Bang's disease and other sanitary measures do not become burdensome to us. Above all, we have got to see that our industry is not overtaxed or at least not taxed more than it is at the present time in order to bear the expense of federal, state, and local governments.

#### RAILS MAY GET INCREASE IN LIVE STOCK RATES

RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN made by two Interstate Commerce Commission examiners that western railroads be permitted to increase rates on stocker and feeder live stock unless they obtain a second haul of the original shipment.

Stocker and feeder rates are now 85 per cent of the fat-stock rates. The proposal now is to put all live stock on the same basis, but stocker and feeder shipments would continue on the 85 per cent basis when there is a separate rail haul within eighteen months.

The examiners said that the railroads should be permitted to apply the proposed new rates, experimentally at least.

This proposed change has been vigor-

ously opposed by numerous live-stock organizations. Leading the opposition through many hearings and long briefs, the American National Live Stock Association put its best men on the case, which has been considered the most important in many years. Charles E. Blaine, traffic counsel of the American National, led the opposition for live-stock shippers.

#### INDIA'S PEASANTS DEPEND LARGELY ON LIVE-STOCK

ALTHOUGH THE PEOPLE OF INDIA are small meat eaters, still the problem of live stock in the country is one which is of prime importance, according to "Foreign Agriculture," a publication of the Department of Agriculture, from which we quote:

"Another problem that looms large in Indian agriculture is that of animal husbandry. As a very large part of the population are vegetarians, the per capita consumption of meat is small, and the production of animals and animal products receives less attention than in most other countries. Nevertheless, live stock are of great importance to India. Besides human labor, live stock constitute the only form of power used for plowing the field, for raising water from the wells, for carrying produce to the market, or for working the primitive oil

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# Read what the Oregon Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association says about BLACKLEGOL

## The OREGON CATTLEMAN

Official Publication of the Oregon Cattle and Horse Raisers Association

VOLUME VIII. NUMBER

### Myrtle Point Making Elaborate Plans for Stockmen's Meeting

Many Stockmen Plan to Take  
Advantage of the Meeting and  
Project Trip to Treasure Isle

Myrtle Point stockmen and business interests, together with commercial clubs from all of the cities of Coos counties, are rapidly finishing plans for the annual cattle convention. Advertising and news articles have been sent out over the state and preparation have been made to entertain a large crowd. A good many eastern Oregon stockmen will continue down the coast from Myrtle Point spend a few days at Treasure Island. The road down the coast is a beautiful drive and it will only take about once in the lifetime of the average stockman when he can attend an exhibition like the one at San Francisco.

A fine list of speakers is being lined up for the program of the Cattle and Horse Raisers convention and this, together with the entertainment features, will make

### EFFECTIVE COOPERATION IS HANDLED, CANYON OFFICE

For a number of years the office of the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Ass'n at Canyon City has cooperated with the Grant County Agricultural Agent in the handling of blackleg vaccine. The County Agent does the work, the Cattle Association assists in advertising the product, and it is interesting to note the change that has been made in the past few years in regard to the variety of vaccine handled through this office.

In 1933 the office sold 24,000 doses of blackleg Bacterin and about 100 doses of Blacklegol. In 1938 the office sold over 16,000 doses of Blacklegol and slightly more than 100 doses of Bacterin. Probably the reason for this change is that the Blacklegol confers life immunity on calves while the Bacterin requires two doses if the animals are under the age of six months. It is quite apparent that there is an economy in using the Blacklegol, particularly for small calves . . . . . stockmen prefer the Blacklegol and are willing to pay the difference in price between these two vaccines.

### SHOWS THAT 10,000 CATTLE RANGE

Official Recognition  
Murderer's Creek  
Treasure Vast Herd

Places of the National Service a tour was made to the north side of the range in that second year that were made and the been developed, it used to control other parts of the rapidly approaching Murderer's Creek area. At approximately using the range in the Stewart ranch and spring range. Due to that extreme damage done to the range by the percentage of the pine trees have been destroyed and pine trees have lost all of their foliage as far as the eye can reach. This is in a heavy loss of cattle who are unable to find proper foliage and starve to death.

At the easy winter range there was a heavy loss and it is estimated that loss was among the yearlings.

along the north Day River are brough the Murd Juniper as high as deep

Continued on Page Two

JUNIORS WIN  
AT SAN FRANCISCO

A large number of boys and girls entered cattle at the Livestock and Baby Bonanza Island

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mills. They are, of course, the only source of manure, which is used both for fuel and for fertilizer. By virtue of these facts, live stock, next to the land, are the farmer's principal investment—hence the statement that 'the life of a peasant depends largely on his live stock; the loss of his cattle spells complete ruin for an ordinary cultivator.'

"The difficulty with Indian animal husbandry is that in most cases the live stock, estimated at more than 200,000,000 head, are of a very poor quality. It would be optimistic to assume," one writer noted, "so high an average as thirty gallons per annum for all the kine actually giving milk in India in any year." This is against an average of 770 gallons in Denmark (1937) and 500 gallons in the United States (1936). Much fewer live stock would be required if they were of improved breeds, less subject to contagious disease, larger in size, and, consequently, more efficient. As it is, 'the competition of both the human and bovine population for maintenance on small holdings which must yield both food and fodder crops has resulted in the steady deterioration of animals' food supply and of their breed and efficiency.' In nearly every part of India pastures are generally hopelessly overstocked. It has been estimated that the fodder produced in the country is sufficient for only two-fifths of the live stock. The problem of reducing the number and improving the quality of live stock is therefore paramount. The task is an enormous one, but it must be undertaken, since 'on improvement in its cattle depends . . . the prosperity of its agriculture'."

#### HOW STATES ARE PROVIDING FOR BANG'S TEST MONEY

**S**TATE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR indemnity on reactors to the Bang's test are shown in the following table. For a discussion of the subject of appropriation of funds in the Bang's campaign, we refer our readers to one of this month's editorials, entitled "Bang's Disease Program."

States providing funds over \$500,000 are:

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Pennsylvania ..... | \$1,400,000 |
| Wisconsin .....    | 900,000     |
| New Hampshire..... | 700,000     |

Those providing between \$100,000 and \$500,000 are:

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Minnesota .....  | \$340,000 |
| New York .....   | 280,000   |
| Washington ..... | 225,000   |
| Ohio .....       | 200,000   |
| Michigan .....   | 160,000   |
| Illinois .....   | 150,000   |
| Florida .....    | 120,000   |
| Iowa .....       | 100,000   |

Under \$100,000 are:

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| North Carolina..... | \$80,000 |
| Alabama .....       | 75,000   |
| Tennessee .....     | 65,000   |
| Utah .....          | 50,000   |
| Vermont .....       | 50,000   |
| North Dakota.....   | 50,000   |
| Georgia .....       | 50,000   |
| Louisiana .....     | 50,000   |
| Virginia .....      | 40,000   |
| Idaho .....         | 40,000   |

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Maine .....        | 35,000 |
| Nebraska .....     | 35,000 |
| Mississippi .....  | 25,000 |
| Connecticut .....  | 24,000 |
| Oregon .....       | 16,000 |
| Rhode Island ..... | 10,000 |
| Missouri .....     | 10,000 |
| Arizona .....      | 7,500  |
| Montana .....      | 6,000  |
| New Mexico .....   | 5,000  |
| Wyoming .....      | 1,500  |

No funds are provided for indemnity purposes in New Jersey, South Dakota, California, Nevada, South Carolina, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, Indiana, Massachusetts, Kentucky, and Kansas.

Arkansas provides such funds as are necessary to pay \$5 per head for each reactor.

States from which no report has been received are Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia.

#### DR. DONOVAN, PROMINENT ASSOCIATION MEMBER, DIES

**D**EATH OF DR. JOHN A. DONOVAN, sixty-eight, prominent Montana physician and cattleman, on July 21 is deeply regretted by a wide circle of friends in the West. He had been ill for several weeks.

Dr. Donovan was born in Canada. He was graduated from the university at Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1894. After several short periods of the practice of medicine in Michigan and Idaho, he established himself permanently in Butte, Montana, and there engaged in uninterrupted practice for forty years.

He was president of the Donovan Ranch Company, which has large holdings on Bloody Dick Creek. He had other business interests in Beaverhead and Silver Bow counties.

Dr. Donovan was a member of the Executive Committee of the American National Live Stock Association. He was also a member of the Montana Stock Growers' Association and took a leading part in all its affairs. He was active in numerous organizations, particularly in the Boy Scouts, an organization in which he gained national recognition.

#### THOMAS E. MITCHELL

Thomas E. Mitchell, seven-year-old son of Albert K. Mitchell, widely known cattleman, died on July 22 following an illness of two months. Albert K. Mitchell is manager of the Bell Ranch in New Mexico and owns a registered Hereford herd. He was formerly president of the American National Live Stock Association and the American Hereford Association. He is chairman of the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

#### FRANK A. HAZELBAKER

Frank A. Hazelbaker, sixty-one, one of Montana's best known cattlemen, died at his home on July 6. Death was caused by the sting of a bee and a subsequent

heart attack. He was one of the most widely known and respected men in Montana. He served as lieutenant governor and had twice been a candidate for governor. Mr. Hazelbaker was a resident of Beaverhead County for forty years. His C bar D ranch near Wisdom, Montana, is one of Montana's best known ranches and has earned an enviable reputation throughout the country.

#### DR. COOPER CURTICE

Dr. Cooper Curtice, widely known for his researches on cattle-tick fever and often credited with being the father of tick-eradication, died August 8 at his home in Beltsville, Maryland. He was eighty-three years old and was born in Stamford, Connecticut. Dr. Curtice is survived by his widow and seven children. He retired from the Bureau of Animal Industry in 1930.

#### CALENDAR

##### SEPTEMBER

8- 9—McCurtain County Live Stock Ass'n Convention, Live Stock Show, and Rodeo, Broken Bow, Okla.

15-17—Northern Arizona Live Stock Show and County Fair, Holbrook.

21-22—California Wool Growers' Ass'n Convention, San Francisco.

26—Buffington Hereford Ranch Sale, Crawford, Neb.

28—Isaac T. Earl Dispersal Sale, Boulder, Colo.

##### OCTOBER

6—Highland Hereford Breeders Ass'n Feeder Sale, Marfa, Tex.

7-14—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.

11—H. H. Forney and Sons Sale, Lakeside, Neb.

12—Red Deer Ranch Sale, Wood Lake, Neb.

13—By-The-Way Ranch Sale, Wood Lake, Neb.

14—Ed Belsky Sale, Merriman, Neb.

14-24—American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City.

22-28—Ak-Sar-Ben Live Stock Show, Omaha, Neb.

23—Northwest Nebraska Hereford Ass'n Sale, Valentine, Neb.

24-25—Central Nebraska Hereford Breeders' Ass'n Sale, Broken Bow, Neb.

26—Wyoming Hereford Ranch Sale, Cheyenne, Wyo.

29-Nov. 3—Great Western Live Stock Show, Los Angeles.

##### NOVEMBER

15-23—The National Grange Convention, Peoria, Ill.

21-22—"Polled Hereford Week" Show and Sale, Des Moines, Iowa.

##### DECEMBER

2- 9—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago.

8- 9—California Cattlemen's Ass'n Convention, San Francisco.

##### JANUARY

11-13—American National Live Stock Ass'n Convention, Denver.

13-20—National Western Stock Show, Denver.

## AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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### FEDERAL PROPAGANDA

**I**N YEARS PAST IT HAS BEEN the custom to think of any notices, statistical information, or data of any kind originating in Washington as being "official." Anything which emanated from governmental sources was quoted as the last word in settling disputes as to facts and in providing a basis for sound observation on any issue at hand.

It is a regrettable fact that with the tremendous increase in propaganda from many government bureaus during recent years this same high standard has not been adhered to. For years we have had the Department of State advocating the ratification of the Argentine sanitary convention and giving to the public a tremendous flow of propaganda, much of which has been incorrect or misleading. The same type of half truths has been used in an effort to convince a skeptical public that the reciprocal trade program is an unlimited success.

Typical of the lengths to which government propaganda now goes in an attempt to convince first one group and then another of the success of the various programs under way, we cite the May 1 issue of the *Consumers' Guide*. In it appears an article by R. M. Evans, administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, entitled "A Message to Consumers." The following two paragraphs are lifted from that article:

"For instance, in 1932 a farmer neighbor of mine gave away a carload of cattle to the people in a near-by town. He had tried selling. He had shipped a carload of steers to market, and the return had been so small he decided it was more sensible to give away the beef outright and be done with it."

"So my farmer neighbor told the folks to come and help themselves. Butchers co-operated, and people just came and

got the meat. By selling the hides he got more for this carload than from the first."

This item seemed so preposterous that the PRODUCER investigated. Under date of July 12, Wayne H. Darrow, director of information of the AAA, makes the following explanation:

"I have checked the details and find that the incident was essentially correct except for one sentence. The car of cattle sold on the Chicago market in December, 1932, not only failed to return the original investment made in August in Kansas City, but gave him absolutely nothing on his investment in feed and labor. So great were his losses that he decided to give away the next shipment and let his neighbors benefit therefrom. The incorrect sentence reads 'By selling the hides he got more from this carload than from the first.'

The incorrect sentence referred to above is the whole story. Whether or not the second carload of cattle was actually given away is not made clear; but, bad as the market was in 1932, there never was a time when hides were worth more than cattle, and for a government bureau to put out such a statement—a plain reflection on the markets—is most reprehensible. Thousands of farmers and live-stock producers were losing money on their shipments at that time, so there was nothing unusual in the experience referred to.

Of course, Mr. Evans was not responsible for the misinformation being made public over his name. He relied upon his publicity bureau to assemble the facts for him and apparently did not have time to check them, as anyone familiar with the situation would have deemed necessary upon reading the statement. Let us hope that the time will soon come when information put out by any bureau of the government may again be depended upon as fact and "official."

### TAYLOR ACT AMENDMENT

**L**IVE-STOCK PRODUCERS HAVE cause to be well pleased with the news that the McCarran amendment to the Taylor Grazing Act became law on July 15. The Subcommittee of Four (A. D. Brownfield, of New Mexico, chairman and a vice-president of the American National Live Stock Association; Wayne Thornburg, president of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association; William B. Wright, president of the Nevada Cattle Growers' Association; and S. C. Hyatt, president of the Wyoming Cattle Growers' Association, aided by Secretary Mollin) was appointed immediately following the San Francisco convention of the American National for the express purpose of going to Washington to work out an amendment which would be satisfactory to all concerned. Passage of the amendment indicates the successful result of services freely and ably rendered.

I am confident that the rank and file of live-stock producers throughout the western range states are in full accord

with the idea embodied in the amendment. It will retain a degree of home rule in the administration of the public domain which for many years has been sadly lacking in the Forest Service. To the extent that the recommendations of the advisory boards are followed, it will insure adherence to practical rather than to theoretical principles, although it may take some time to demonstrate the full meaning and true worth to the industry of this new amendment.

We are grateful to these men and to Senator McCarran and Congressman Dempsey, and for the American National Live Stock Association I wish to express sincere appreciation.

HUBBARD RUSSELL.

### BANG'S DISEASE PROGRAM

**E**VER SINCE THE FALL OF 1934, when funds provided for the purchase of cattle in drought areas was diverted to the purchase of Bang's disease reactors, officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry, aided by overzealous state sanitary officials in certain states, have pressed hard for a nation-wide compulsory Bang's disease testing program. Originally camouflaged as a "cattle reduction" measure, with large sums of emergency money available, the project was well under way, with the goal that of duplicating the tuberculosis program, before the country at large had a clear indication of what was going on.

During the past two years an intensive effort has been made to speed up the program. Until a year ago, with the federal government paying full indemnities on a liberal appraisal, it was profitable to dispose of "boarders" and nondescript females in that fashion. Then the program was placed on a permanent basis. Funds were appropriated direct for that purpose but hedged with requirements that the state must match federal indemnity payment and limiting the federal share to one-third the difference between the appraised value and the salvage value of the animal.

Due to these requirements, it is no longer possible to keep up the high-pressure tactics formerly employed and largely directed from Washington. Matching appropriations must be secured by action of state legislatures, and local stockmen generally have some well-informed representatives sitting in these bodies.

Stockmen can be trusted to do everything necessary to insure the safety and health of their herds and flocks. In this instance, scanning the record of recent legislative action, it is not indicated that they are thoroughly sold on the merit of the Bang's disease program. According to a table published elsewhere in this issue, only eleven states provided an amount of \$100,000 or greater for indemnity payments for the ensuing biennium; three more appropriated amounts from \$65,000 to \$80,000, ten from \$25,000 to \$50,000; and the remainder (with

three not heard from) only nominal amounts or none at all.

It is apparent that the lack of indemnity funds available will slow up the program and make it possible fully to study and appraise what has been done to date and what the possibilities are. The record of the testing program is not too good. More than 33,000,000 tests have been made and still not a single area is recognized federally as Bang's disease accredited. Thousands upon thousands of valuable breeding animals have been slaughtered, which according to recent vaccination tests might have profitably and safely been saved to the herd. Hundreds of cattlemen have given up the program in disgust when repeated testing and removal of reactors failed to clear their herds as disease free.

In the meantime rapid progress has been made with vaccination to control the disease, despite "extraordinary official opposition and hindrance," as a veterinary practitioner described it in a recent magazine article. Results of recent vaccination work are most encouraging. The same article referred to shows 96 per cent of living healthy calves during the past four years—a showing that clearly indicates that the testing program, calling as it does for the destruction of thousands of valuable animals, cannot longer be justified. Soon also there will be

available the results of the vaccination experiments now being made by the Bureau of Animal Industry with almost 300 test herds. Advance but unofficial reports are most favorable.

In view of all the circumstances it is to be hoped that the Bureau of Animal Industry will soon discontinue the effort to duplicate the tuberculosis program. It is doomed to failure. Admitting that the testing program will temporarily eliminate the disease if one has the time, patience, money, and cattle to "last it out," the recurrence of the disease in short order in many cases baffles the experts. Practical to a limited degree in certain purebred and dairy herds, it is entirely impractical in the range areas of the West and the brushy cutover areas of the South, or any place where cattle range and are not under close control. Vermont already has recognized the vaccine method as a practical means of control (see reference to new law elsewhere in this issue). Faster progress will be made in control of the disease if those now engaged in trying to apply high-pressure methods for a compulsory testing program will turn their energies to co-ordinating what is good in both the blood testing and vaccinating methods of control.

boil it all down in a single sentence, it is to sell the American agricultural producer down the river in order to bolster export trade and to please the international bankers who thrive on just such situations.

#### RETAIL BEEF PRICES LAG

DURING THE PAST NINETY DAYS there has been a sharp decline in the price of all beef cattle. As is, unfortunately, usually the case under such conditions, retail prices show scant if any recognition of the decline until long after it has been registered as a painful fact with all live-stock producers and feeders who have visited the market meanwhile.

In years past it was usually found that the lapse of memory was chargeable to the packers. Nowadays more often it is the retail distributor who is at fault. Quick to advance prices as the market advances, his reverse speed in marking them down would put even a WPA worker to shame.

The following price relationships covering recent weeks reveal that, while wholesale prices have failed to reflect the full drop in live-animal prices, retail prices have held generally steady, even a shade higher on the top grades—a condition harmful to the industry and not explainable on any basis of reason and fact.

#### STEERS AT CHICAGO (1,100 to 1,300 Pounds)

|              | May 6, 1939 | Aug. 5, 1939 | Aug. 5, 1938 |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Choice ..... | \$12.08     | \$9.68       | \$11.18      |
| Good .....   | 10.18       | 8.92         | 10.15        |
| Medium ..... | 8.80        | 8.02         | 8.68         |

#### WESTERN DRESSED BEEF IN NEW YORK (600- to 700-Pound Carcasses)

|              | May 6, 1939 | Aug. 5, 1939 | Aug. 5, 1938 |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Choice ..... | \$17.80     | \$16.20      | \$18.90      |
| Good .....   | 16.25       | 15.20        | 17.55        |
| Medium ..... | 14.85       | 13.40        | 15.25        |

#### COWS IN CHICAGO (All Weights)

|            | May 6, 1939 | Aug. 5, 1939 | Aug. 5, 1938 |
|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Good ..... | \$7.62      | \$6.85       | \$7.02       |

#### COW BEEF IN NEW YORK (All Weights)

|            | May 6, 1939 | Aug. 5, 1939 | Aug. 5, 1938 |
|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Good ..... | \$14.20     | \$13.50      | \$13.30      |

#### RETAIL BEEF IN NEW YORK (Mostly Cash and Carry—Good Grade)

|               | Apr. 30,<br>1939 | July 31,<br>1939 | July 31,<br>1938 |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Sirloin Steak | 39 cents         | 41 cents         | 40 cents         |
| Round Steak   | 38 cents         | 39 cents         | 41 cents         |
| Rib Roast     | 30 cents         | 30 cents         | 32 cents         |
| Chuck Roast   | 23 cents         | 22 cents         | 24 cents         |

The spread between the producer and the consumer is already too great, with constantly increasing costs of distribution. Ordinarily this extravagant system, rather than undue profit on the part of any of the groups involved, is responsible for the wide gap. Now, however, retail prices in particular and wholesale prices to a lesser degree need adjustment. It is unfair to growers and

## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE WEST COAST

Centered at the Los Angeles Union Stock Yards is the buying power of four national packers and more than twenty-five smaller slaughterers who require each month, based on actual slaughter in 1938, an average of:

44,000 Cattle  
14,000 Calves  
68,000 Hogs  
89,000 Sheep

It will pay you to keep in touch with this broad buying power. Get the facts on the Los Angeles market by writing to . . .

## LOS ANGELES Union Stock Yards

Los Angeles, California

feeders longer to maintain meat prices based on live-animal costs ninety days old. The PRODUCER urges that the leaders in all groups involved in distribution of meat products carefully examine their price structure and mark down prices as much as possible. In no other fashion can beef compete with cheap pork and poultry and maintain its position before the consumer with any degree of success.

### CORN LOANS AND POLICY

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CLEARLY indicate that the AAA is going to do all in its power to boost corn prices. Steel bins have been purchased to store some of the surplus sealed under government loans from previous crops. It is claimed that compliance with the program this year is about 90 per cent, and all signers will be eligible to new corn loans, and room must be made for new corn storage on a huge scale.

Admittedly, with the power and the money to make loans far above a market basis, the AAA can this year reduce consumption, retire hundreds of millions of bushels from the scene temporarily, and thus make a showing of advanced price. But has the AAA fallen to such low estate that it is willing to content itself with such sham devices to help the farmer, knowing that it is simply postponing the evil day? Every bushel kept from consumption now will be on hand a year later to help multiply the problem then. Live stock will not go hungry in the meantime. Substitute feeds are available and will be used generously.

Perhaps the AAA is gambling on a drought with resultant short corn crop in 1940. True there have been three good crops in a row, except west of the Missouri River, but that is no guaranty of a change next year.

It cannot be denied that the policy being followed is one that the world has proved fallacious time and time again. But we need not look beyond our own borders nor beyond the recent past in our own history to find a parallel that should discourage the present corn program. In cotton the AAA tried exactly the same tactics and succeeded in proving itself 100 per cent wrong. Surely with 13,000,000 bales of cotton in storage—three times the amount we exported last year—we should not want to duplicate in corn the sorry cotton situation of recent years.

But is not that clearly the drift? The corn we are piling up must be consumed at home. Why not do it now when there is a demand for it? It has been clearly demonstrated that the AAA has failed to control corn production. If on top of that it acts aggressively to reduce consumption it will mean (barring drought) a huge visible supply for years to come which can have only one effect: to guarantee that corn prices will be low and that the Corn Belt will rival the Cotton Belt as the problem center of our farm industry.

## WASHINGTON

### THE CONGRESS SESSION

EXPENDITURE OF MORE THAN \$13,000,000,000 was authorized—a record peace-time total.

**Agriculture.**—Enacted record agricultural appropriation bill, totaling \$1,194,000,000; provided \$119,000,000 to enable the Commodity Credit Corporation to continue operations in support of prices for farm surpluses; furnished \$113,000,000 which will be used in large measure to subsidize cotton exports. Amendments to the AAA included postponement from late August to late September of the date for holding a referendum on corn marketing quotas.

**Amendment to P. and S. Y. Act.**—Rates prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture for services rendered by stock yards and marketing agencies must be minimum as well as maximum under the Duncan bill, which became law. An amendment to the bill to permit the secretary to limit the number of stock-yard owners, marketing agencies, or dealers by requiring newcomers to obtain a certificate showing public necessity for their proposed operations failed.

**Marketing Service.**—Just before adjournment the Senate passed a bill, sponsored by Mr. Bailey, of North Carolina, to provide for better marketing services for agriculture largely through co-operation of federal and state departments of agriculture. The bill will come up in the House when Congress reconvenes. In forty-four states the direction of marketing activities now centers in the departments of agriculture. The bill provides that if more than one agency in any state is carrying on marketing and marketing services, the Secretary of Agriculture shall require such agencies to co-operate to prevent duplication and overlapping.

**Labor.**—No action was taken on proposed amendments to the Wagner Act or wage-and-hour law. One of them, the Barden amendment, would have exempted 2,000,000 workers processing agricultural products, including packer employees and other groups of seasonal workers, from wage-hour provisions. The House authorized a \$50,000 investigation during recess of the National Labor Relations Board.

**Taxes.**—The undistributed profits tax on corporations was eliminated and a flat 18 per cent levy substituted. Federal and state governments are permitted to tax the income of employees of the other. Elimination of tax exemption on government bonds was deferred. Study of general tax revision program is to be made by House Ways and Means Committee.

**Relief.**—Appropriation of \$1,775,000,000 for the new relief program was

made, but WPA activities were curtailed. The amendment established a 130-hour month for the same pay WPA workers formerly received for about half that time. A requested \$50,000,000 for deficiencies in relief operations was lost.

**Transportation.**—Both Houses passed omnibus railroad bills, but no compromise was reached. Among the measures' many provisions, water carriers, with important exceptions, would be subject to ICC regulation.

**Truth in Fabrics.**—Bill passed Senate but Congress adjourned before consideration of it was secured in the House.

**Loans to Business.**—The Mead bill for insurance of loans to small business was defeated, but other means of accomplishing this may come up in next Congress.

**Social Security.**—Revision of the social security law freezes pay roll taxes at 1 per cent for the next three years to effect a tax saving for business and employes of \$905,000,000. The Townsend plan for old-age pensions was defeated in the House.

**Defense.**—It was voted to spend nearly \$2,000,000,000 for a defense program to expand the Army, Navy, and air force in a record peace-time program.

**Neutrality.**—Senate Foreign Relations Committee refused to take up administration measure to repeal the mandatory arms embargo against warring nations.

**Monetary.**—The President's dollar devaluation powers, the \$2,000,000,000 stabilization fund, and the life of the RFC were continued.

**Lending.**—The House refused to consider President Roosevelt's \$3,000,000,000 lending program and the addition of \$800,000,000 to funds for the United States Housing Administration.

**Politics.**—The Hatch law limits political activity by federal officeholders, members of Congress and certain other policy making officials being exempted.

**Barter.**—Exchange with Great Britain of 600,000 bales of cotton for rubber to be held for emergency was ratified.

**Reorganization.**—Permitting restricted reshuffling of government agencies.

### WASHINGTON NEWS

ARGENTINA HAS FINALLY COME into the foreign trade agreement fold. Announcement by the Department of State speaks of intention to negotiate a pact. Concerning it, a wire from Joseph C. O'Mahoney, of Wyoming, says: "Proposed trade agreement with Argentina will not include fresh beef, and only hides and canned meat are on list of items for negotiation, according to my information from Wash-

ington. It will be my purpose to appear before reciprocity information committee to oppose any reduction of tariff schedules on hides and canned meat. Exclusion of fresh beef from consideration is a result of successful resistance in the Senate to sanitary treaty which as you know has been held up in the foreign relations committee. Livestock interests can take great satisfaction in the fact that Department of State has recognized that the sanitary ban cannot be removed through a trade agreement. This means that state department has recognized the complete effectiveness of the present embargo."

#### TRADE TREATIES

United States and Russia have agreed to continue in effect an agreement whereby Russia will buy a minimum of \$40,000,000 of American goods in the next twelve months and the United States will accord commerce of the Soviet Union unconditional most-favored-nation treatment, with a reservation in respect to coal. . . . The Department of State on July 26 abrogated the 1911 treaty of commerce and navigation with Japan. That action left the United States free, at the end of a six months' notification period, to impose embargoes upon sales of war materials to Japan or upon imports of Japanese products. . . . The Department of State has announced intention to negotiate a new trade agreement with Belgium.

#### INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION

Representative Harry B. Coffee, of Nebraska, is one of twenty-nine delegates appointed to the Interparliamentary Union conference in Oslo, Norway, which began August 15. The union's aim is the promotion of world peace. It stands for the existence of the representative system as the best protection of public liberties. Groups in fifty-one countries are members. The Oslo conference is the thirty-fifth held by the union.

#### WAGE-HOUR LAW INTERPRETED

Recent interpretations by wage-hour act Administrator E. M. Andrews of the fourteen workweek exemption clause in the law hold that the exemption applies only to the handling of live-stock and not the products or by-products. Thus, "the manufacturing, curing, smoking, grading, refrigerating, and packing of meat products and by-products . . . the processing of live-stock and poultry meat for packing and canning purposes, and the packing and canning" of such meat are not included; that the exemption applies separately to each "place of employment" (plant together with surrounding premises); that the purpose of the section was to relieve processors in peak seasons and, therefore only those who handle, slaughter, or dress live-stock, or whose work is so closely asso-

ciated thereto as not to permit of segregation and where work is also controlled by the irregular movement of commodities into the establishment are covered in the exemption; and that the exempted workweek need not be consecutive, but the employer cannot take that exemption for one set of employees and then take the same exemption for another set in the same establishment.

#### PACT INVESTIGATION ASKED

Investigation of the injurious effect upon American agriculture of President Roosevelt's announcement last April that Argentine canned beef is superior to the American product and of Secretary of State Cordell Hull's reciprocal trade agreement policy was asked in a resolution introduced by Representative August H. Andresen, of Minnesota, in the last days of Congress. Destruction for American live-stock producers would follow a change in the sanitary embargo against foot-and-mouth disease, the representative said. He said that all foreigners who ship beef here should be required to comply with sanitary requirements. "The good neighbor reciprocal trade policies have brought about large importations into this country of cheaply produced farm and manufactured products. As a result of this, the American market has been glutted and millions have been forced to continue on relief. The government pays out hundreds of millions of dollars to farmers so they will produce less, and our chief executive reduces tariff duties and invites foreign producers to ship competitive products into the American market. In other words, the American market is being given away to cheap foreign production."

#### TIGHTER CONTROL OF RANGE

The Department of the Interior has announced a tightening of restrictions on use of government-owned range lands. It has ordered the general land office to survey 50,000,000 acres of public domain to determine how much of it is being used by live-stock producers for grazing without government lease. The department said that the study will form the basis for action to bring the use of range lands outside of grazing districts under greater control. "Only 6,000,000 acres of the 50,000,000 outside federal grazing districts are under lease. The rest probably is being subjected to substantial grazing operations without lease."

#### STAMP PLAN

Secretary Wallace has announced gradual expansion of the food stamp plan for distributing surplus agricultural commodities and has begun setting up a nation-wide organization to install and administer the program in seventy-five to 100 cities by next spring. The plan,

in slightly different forms, is now in effect in Rochester, New York, where \$200,000 has been spent on the plan since its inauguration May 16; Dayton, Ohio; Seattle, Washington; Birmingham, Alabama; Shawnee, Oklahoma; and Des Moines, Iowa. In the form widely adopted, work-relief employees are given 50 cents worth of blue stamps for each \$1 worth of orange stamps purchased. Relief clients exchange the orange stamps for any food at their regular grocery store. Blue stamps are good in exchange only for foods which the Secretary of Agriculture designates as surplus. Foods now included in the surplus list are butter, eggs, corn meal, dried prunes, dry edible beans, wheat cereals and wheat flour, rice, cabbage, fresh peaches, fresh tomatoes, fresh green peas, onions, and fresh pears, lard, and vegetable fat products. A movement has been started to set up a system of distributing cotton textile products on a basis similar to the stamp plan.

#### TENANT FARM LOANS

The Farm Security Administration has announced allocation of \$38,000,000 among the states for loans to tenant farmers for purchase of farms. Officials estimated the loans would finance purchase of 7,068 farms. Bulk of the loans will be made in southern and midwestern states. The largest allocation, \$3,654,663, was to Texas.

#### WHEAT INSURANCE

Up to July 25, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation reports settlement had been made on losses incurred by 6,274 growers for 1,710,900 bushels of wheat. Most of the losses settled were in the winter wheat belt. Claims for insurance payments averaged 270 bushels. Losses were adjusted in seventeen states. The "all-risk" insurance covers losses from all unavoidable hazards such as drought, wind, hail, insects, flood, and plant disease. Growers may insure up to 75 per cent of their average yield. Drought has been the greatest single factor in losses adjusted thus far.

#### WHEAT

The AAA has announced that wheat farmers would receive benefit payments of 18 to 22 cents a bushel for complying with the 1940 crop control program. This is 6 to 10 cents a bushel less than payments of 28 cents on the 1939 crop. . . . Under a new program, subsidies on export wheat will be paid directly to exporters on a competitive basis. Exporters will purchase wheat directly from mills and elevators, seek a foreign market, and advise the Department of Agriculture the amount of subsidy necessary to finance the export. Exporters offering to handle the wheat at the low-

est subsidy will get the contract. Under the old program the government purchased the wheat and sold it to exporters at a price which would enable them to sell it abroad at a profit.

#### FARMERS' INCOME

Farmers had a cash income of \$2,967,000,000 from the sale of farm products during the first half of this year, the Department of Agriculture has reported. The income was 4 per cent smaller than in the corresponding period of last year, when total income was \$3,084,000,000. Income from crops this year was 6 per cent smaller and from live stock and live-stock products 2 per cent smaller. Cash income from the sale of principal live-stock and crop products declined this year in all regions except the east north central.

#### GOVERNMENT BUYS BINS

The Department of Agriculture has contracted for 25,500 steel bins at a cost of \$3,611,520 to store 43,279,000 bushels of corn. At least one bin having a capacity of 1,000 to 2,000 bushels of shelled corn will be located in virtually every community in the Corn Belt. The bins will be placed for storage of corn which farmers do not hold. Eventually the department expects to buy bins for the storing of 100,000,000 bushels of corn.

#### SUBMARGINAL PURCHASES ENDED

One of the largest land buying projects ever undertaken by the federal government—purchase of submarginal farming areas under authority of the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 and the Emergency Relief Act of 1935—has closed its books. During five years more than 9,000,000 acres of land primarily unsuited for cultivation have been bought at a total cost of about \$46,000,000, and developed largely by means of FERA and WPA funds.

#### COTTON

Title to 6,940,000 bales of 1934 and 1937 loan cotton is being acquired by the government, part of it to be used to complete the cotton-rubber barter deal with Great Britain and to make delivery to Spain, France, and Switzerland. On 1,670,000 of the acquired bales, the government's total cost is an estimated 16 cents. Loans on 4,480,000 bales of 1938 cotton have been extended to July 31, 1940. . . . The Secretary of Agriculture announced that the government will pay 1½-cents-a-pound subsidies on lint cotton and on cotton goods sent abroad from July 27, 1939, to June 30, 1940.

#### NATIONAL PARKS

Acting Director John R. White of the National Park Service has reported to Secretary Ickes that over 1,600,000

acres were added to the scenic, recreational, and historical areas during the year ended June 30, 1939. This brings the total acreage in the federal park system to 20,817,228 acres and increased the number of administrative areas from 144 to 154. Five monuments were added along with several new national historic sites. . . . The King's Canyon bill which provides for a new national park in California was passed by the House of Representatives in spite of considerable opposition from California, but blocked in the Senate. At the next session this bill will be up for early consideration.

#### LARD

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace has rejected proposals by some southern and midwestern congressmen, as well as packers and live-stock men for an export subsidy program on lard, other fats, and oils. The secretary said other proposals for dealing with the conditions brought about by comparatively low prices for lard, cottonseed oil, and other fats and oils are under consideration. Among those proposals are (1) diversion of some of surplus fats and oils from edible channels to soap trade, (2) purchase of lard and possibly other pork products for distribution to needy, and (3) additional increases in exports of lard and soy beans through the underwriting of sound transactions.

## Northwest Nebraska Hereford Association

### 10,000 Purebred Herefords Within Our Border—42 Members

Clean reliable seed stock at living prices for sale at all times in any numbers. Choice herd bull material.

**The Sand Hills Reign Supreme in Producing the "Beef Breed Supreme."**

**For the best in Herefords plan to attend these members' sales:**

- Sept. 26—Buffington Hereford Ranch, Crawford, Neb.
- Oct. 11—H. H. Forney & Sons, Lakeside, Neb.
- Oct. 12—Red Deer Ranch, Wood Lake, Neb.
- Oct. 13—By-the-Way Ranch, Wood Lake, Neb.
- Oct. 14—Ed Belsky, Merriman, Neb.
- Oct. 23—Association sale, Valentine, Neb.

D. W. Sumner, President

**Ed. Belsky, Secretary, Merriman, Neb.** H. J. Harms, Vice-President

## HEAVIER MARKETING OF LIVE STOCK EXPECTED

**M**ARKETING OF LIVE STOCK IN terms of total live weight during the remainder of 1939 and in 1940 will be larger than a year earlier, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Most of this increase will be in hogs, although marketings of grain-fed cattle probably will continue larger than in the previous year during the first half of 1940, at least. Consumer demand for meats is expected to be a little stronger during the remainder of 1939 and in early 1940 than in the first half of this year.

For the country as a whole, feed supplies in 1939-40 will be ample, but there will be rather severe shortages in some sections. Because of hot and dry weather in July, feed crop prospects

and pasture conditions in early August were poor in the northeastern, Great Plains, and Rocky Mountain regions. Range conditions in the western states on August 1 were much below those of last year and below average. But in practically all the Corn Belt west of the Missouri River crop prospects are favorable.

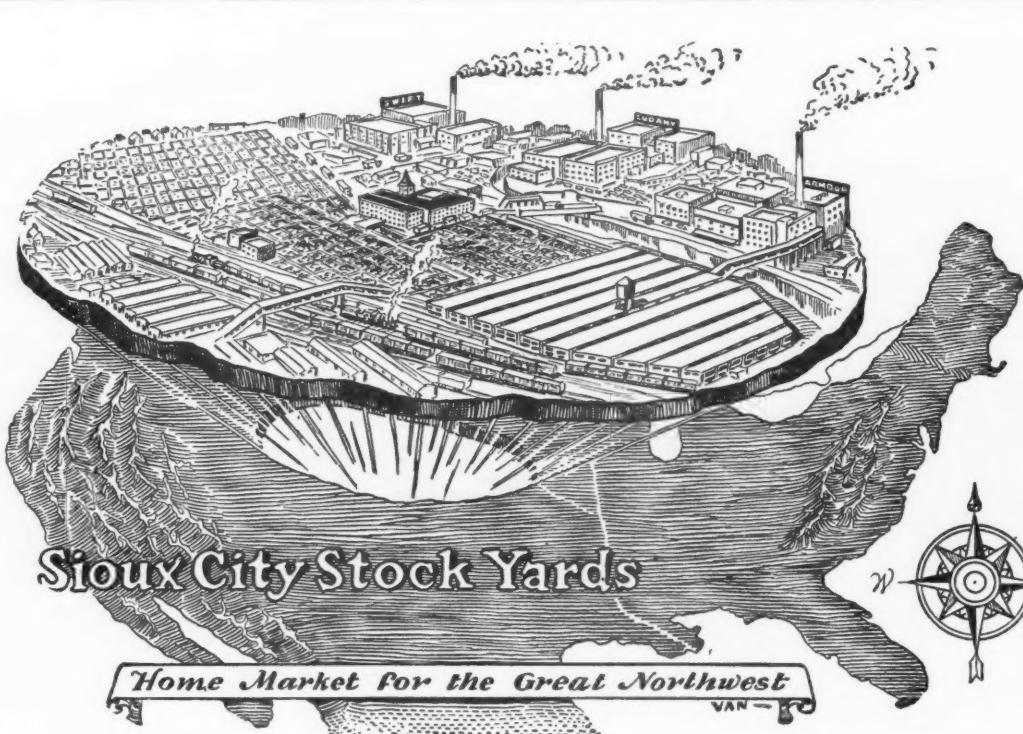
Production of feed grains is indicated as somewhat smaller than last year, offset, however, by the increase in the carryover of corn. Live-stock numbers of January 1 will be larger than a year earlier, and the total feed supply per animal for 1939-40 is expected to be about 8 per cent smaller than in 1938-39 but about 4 per cent greater than the pre-drought average.

The number of cattle fed in the Corn Belt next winter and spring is expected to continue relatively large; in the western states, considerably smaller.

Marketings of cattle and calves from the western states are indicated as somewhat larger this fall than last. Cattle numbers in the western states on January 1, 1940, may be little changed from a year earlier, but numbers in the rest of the country are expected to be larger.

Marketings of lambs from the western sheep states probably will be larger this year than last. Poor range probably will discourage holding back of ewe lambs to increase sheep numbers. The proportion of western lambs in only feeder condition this fall will be much larger than last fall and larger than average.

The supply of lambs available for feeding this year will be larger than last, but the number fed in western areas is expected to be smaller. In the Corn Belt no reduction is expected and some increase may occur.



Surrounded by the best feeding territory in the United States, the Sioux City Market offers unexcelled opportunities to cattlemen for the marketing of their live stock.

## SHIP TO SIOUX CITY

*Every Modern Facility for Your Convenience*

# MARKETS

## LIVE-STOCK MARKETS AND OTHER MATTERS

BY JAMES E. POOLE



LIVE-STOCK MARKETS ARE IN the throes of semi-demoralization. Every branch is involved, with the exception of veal. Compared with the corresponding period of 1938, fat cattle are \$1.50 to \$2.50 per cwt. lower, depending on weight; hogs, \$2.25 lower; lambs practically on the same basis.

During the latter half of 1937 and 1938, pork was both scarce and costly; consequently beef was immune to disastrous competition. But on this occasion an avalanche of "hawg meat" descended on distributive trade, paralyzing the summer beef market, incidentally carrying lamb down a well lubricated set of skids. When the historic pig massacre was pulled off, half a decade back, confident prediction was made that thereafter pork production would be regulated through the corn crib; instead, effort to regulate the aforesaid corn crib has proved a flop. Between Dame Nature and human ingenuity, the Belt and its spacious environs are growing more corn on a substantially restricted acreage than previously.

July hog slaughter was 15 per cent larger than for the same month last year; that of cattle, 5 per cent less, lambs showing a 6 per cent decrease on a numerical basis. To aggravate the situation, both cattle and hogs ran to excessive weight. Frequently 60 per cent of the fat-cattle supply exceeded 1,100 pounds, while packing sows weighing 400 to 500 pounds comprised the bulk of hog receipts. A constant procession of 1,200- to 1,400-pound long-fed steers paraded before cattle buyers, fat barrows exceeding 300 pounds showing up numerously in the hog alleys.

### Pork Pushed

Processors and distributors tackled the disposal task, and in the case of pork accomplished their purpose: beef was forced to shift for itself. Practically every scrap of selling energy in retail meat trade was behind pork. This product was actually cheap, with sows realizing \$4 to \$4.50 and barrows \$4.75 to \$5.50, according to weight. Packers

bought Chicago droves close to \$5 per cwt., justifying Secretary Wallace's forecast. Pork invaded the normal sphere of beef by entering into "hot dog" and other sausage construction, also figuring in "hamburger" ingredients. Consumers were able to buy two pounds of succulent pork for one of beef, distributors holding up cost of desirable beef to the ultimate consumer, who never had an opportunity to realize the slump in fat-steer prices. Processors announced, volubly, decreases in wholesale cost, but the news did not reach the retailer's counter.

Logically pork went into the capacious consumer maw while beef lagged in cooler seclusion. Retailers' margins on hog product were substantial—sufficient to stimulate selling energy. Cheaper grades of beef were unseasonably scarce, making the pork selling job more congenial. When a woman squawked at cost of a steak or roast, the salesman adroitly suggested pork or poultry. "Long Island" ducks (every duck is entitled to that cognomen when it reaches the customer) circulated all over the Middle West, and along the Atlantic seaboard marine food was a top-liner.

### Fat Cattle Crack

This explains, partially at least, why the fat-cattle market cracked wide open. Not that beef supply was excessive, based on normal demand, as production did not exceed that of the corresponding period of 1938, but the market did not afford "variety," and a surplus of big beef encountered sales resistance. At all times yearlings, both steers and heifers, could be cleared without difficulty, and there was a marked scarcity of grassers and short-feds in the lower price bracket. To meet this deficiency killers took thousands of grassy and merely warmed-up two-way steers at \$7.50 to \$8.50, while desirable or near-choice heavy steers had difficulty in earning \$9.25 to \$9.50 and only specialties were able to beat \$9.75. From \$14, the season's starting point, the noted

Attebery (Nebraska) drove of Circle Dot steers sold by successive stages down to \$10.25 when the top otherwise was \$10.

On the theory that the market would repeat 1937 and 1938 performance with heavy steers, too many feeders played the game that way. Each week delivered an imposing array of 1,200- to 1,400-pound bullocks. Reduced 50 per cent, the supply would have been more than adequate; disposal of the product was at intervals a serious problem. Plain-bred, big steers sold at \$8.50 to \$8.75. They were huge chunks of beef, frequently carrying more tallow than hide, and tallow is worth around 4½ cents. Light, car-route steers lacking quality and condition realized \$8.75 to \$9.25 per cwt., costing more on the hooks than near-choice bullocks.

### Heifers Hold Up

Transversely, the heifer market justified bragging. According to weight and condition, \$9 to \$9.75 bought the bulk; occasionally a \$10 top was made. Former heifer penalization was discontinued to evade weight. Shortage of heifer supply operated to the advantage of 1,000- to 1,050-pound steers—not yearlings but of yearling type—costing about the same money, or 25 to 50 cents above heavy steers. Scarcity of cow beef enabled canners and cutters—dairy yard refuse—to sell at \$4 to \$5.25, fat grass cows at \$5.50 to \$6.50, and fed cows as high as \$8.

No considerable grass beef tonnage invaded the August market. Southwestern grassers at \$6.50 to \$7.50, up to \$8 if caked, reported more numerously, although the bulk of a swelling movement in the direction of Missouri River and other western markets went into the stocker and feeder alleys. Utilizing pork in sausage making tested the bull market, which dropped 50 cents per cwt. but held on a \$6.25 to \$7 basis following the crack.

Even with corn available around or under 40 cents per bushel, many heavy, long-fed steers have barely paid their board bill, while yearlings, both steers and heifers, have been profitable. The recent course of the market, however, affords an oft-repeated demonstration of the fact that a poor steer may be sold at a "good" price, a fat one at a "poor" price. Those who cashed early in the year on short, low-cost feeds displayed sound judgment; the farther they went, the less satisfactory was the financial outcome.

Although the heavy-steer subject has been worn threadbare, reiteration is excusable. The trade can always use a few \$1,200- to 1,350-pound steers; carrying them into the 1,400-pound stage is sheer idiocy. On this occasion weight discrimination started at 1,100 pounds; preference was for yearlings below 1,000 pounds. Boston backed up on heavies, and New York kosher trade showed a marked tendency to yearling carcasses. A time is coming—it may



be here now—when a 1,200-pound bullock will be a trade anachronism. Lacking quality, no steer should be carried above 1,000 pounds.

#### Hogs Recover

After descending to the depths, the hog market revived at mid-August, when, discrediting previous contention that they were loaded to the guards with unsalable lard, packers hopped into the arena, supporting advances of 50 to 85 cents per cwt. in a few days. No reason was assigned; in fact, trade was dumfounded, as discredited packing sows got the long end of the appreciation. Choice hogs weighing 250 pounds claimed the top price, heavy barrows and sows getting the maximum upturn.

For one thing, processors are indisposed to damage a goose capable of laying profitable eggs. The swine industry having effectively recuperated, they are apprehensive that growers will reduce breeding operations in an attempt to sustain prices. The AAA goal is higher corn prices. Fifty-cent corn will not go into 5-cent hogs with satisfactory financial results, and should the country take a notion to liquidate the 1939 pig crop at short weight and in deficient condition—which is detrimental to satisfactory cure—the joke would be on the packer.

Live muttons, both sheep and lambs, have uncovered the year's lowest prices. At mid-August \$8.25 to \$8.40 was the lamb market at Chicago, with the usual price differentials east and west. A large crop of native, or Corn Belt, lambs held back by lush pastures and cheap gains is in the offing; Kentucky, Virginia, and Maryland will load until well along in September; and the residue of the northwestern crop has yet to be harvested. September is usually a bad month in fat-lamb circles, and, although the usual break at that period may have been discounted, there is nothing in the prospect on which to predicate a sharp rally.

#### FEEDERS

Impatiently waiting for a break in replacement cattle cost, beef-makers are in a mentally confused condition. The in-and-out element, "in" with both feet last fall, is setting the price pace. Spreads between fat and stock cattle have narrowed to a point pregnant with danger unless the fat-cattle market can be revivified. Uncertainty regarding gain cost is another factor restricting investment. However, the trade realizes that no fall bargain sale is possible, as apart from healthy current demand the potential factor must be reckoned with.

An outstanding feature is reluctance to take on weight, which is sending a large percentage of the two-way type steers direct to the beef-rail. Occasionally feeders outbid killers in this competition, but the investment trend is emphatically to calves and light yearlings.

A depressed trade in heavy beef steers is responsible, although 800- to 1,000-pound fleshy feeders at going prices look to be the best bet.

An August 1 government estimate of 16 per cent more cattle on feed than at the corresponding period of 1938 was far from encouraging, although these periodical guesses are taken with the proverbial grain of salt, in view of recent performance. Another thing is that a considerable percentage of cattle in beef-makers' hands are calves and yearlings that will not figure in beef supply for a year hence. They have been acquired to graze down cost, rough through the winter, and feed out on grass next summer—an economical method of making gains. Go where you will, into any nook and cranny of the Corn Belt and its environs, and the inquiry on the tip of every tongue is prospective stocker supply and cost.

#### Cost High

Kansas City is the focal point. There 50 to 65 per cent of daily receipts are going to the country—a mob of feeders and operators of interior sales yards, where they "dollar 'em off," lick the platter clean the moment the feeding and watering job is done. Admittedly cost is high when measured by realization prices of finished steers, particularly the "big brutes," but demand is equal if not in excess. Many regular feeders are giving in-and-outers right of way on the theory that they will fill up.

Ten dollars for steers and \$9 for heifers is the slogan of the western commercial, these figures implying quality, but any kind of a calf gets a bid, mediocrity realizing more money in a relative sense than quality. Omaha reports sales of short-age steer calves at \$11 to \$11.25, heifers at \$9 to \$9.25; but such calves are weight and quality specialties. The Nebraska "Sand Hill" association has pegged No. 1 steer calves at \$10; heifers at \$9. Chicago is selling Texas steer calves, 330 to 475 pounds, at \$8.25 to \$9.25, but these are by no means diamonds of the first water. Kansas City reports a \$9.75 to \$10 market for choice steer calves, but \$7 to \$8.90 takes stocker yearlings, mediocre to choice. Demand for short-fed feeders at \$8.25 to \$8.50 is restrained, although the break in fat cattle cut this type 50 cents per cwt. Occasionally a feeder, in gambling mood, outbids a killer on heavy, fleshy steers weighing 1,100 to 1,200 pounds, but usually this type goes to the beef-rail. One load of 1,235-pound Angus was taken by a feeder late in August at \$7.70 that would have been worth \$9.25 to killers early in July. The old-time supply of native "reds and roans" has all but disappeared, evicted by the recently profitable but now indigent dairy cow.

The country may change its policy, taking on heavier steers later in the season, especially if weighty fat cattle pick up, but at the moment weight is a

veritable bogey. Popular, however, is the cheaper steer, lacking quality and weighing 700 to 950 pounds, costing \$6.50 to \$7.75 per cwt. These can be grazed down in cost, gorged on strong feed ninety to 120 days, and thrown into the mid-winter market when condition rather than quality is the price determining factor.

#### Breeding Cows in Demand

Demand for breeding cows is insatiable; supply is deficient. At Kansas City farmers are taking Whiteface western cows with calves at side costing \$6.25 to \$7.25. Stock heifers are also good property at \$6.50 to \$8.25. Breeders are reluctant to part with heifers, as the industry cannot be rehabilitated unless young female stock is conserved. The whole country east of the Missouri River is beef-cattle minded; only inability to acquire cows at prices considered "possible" restricts purchasing.

The feed situation shows scant change, except that AAA control is exerting a hardening influence on feed cost. Announcement that none of the 257,000,000 bushels of corn carrying government 57-cent loans and the residue of 1937 and 1938 crops will be sold at current prices exerts a bullish influence, although interest in corn in a commercial sense has dwindled to the zero point. Primary markets are getting a beggarly stream of grain, accentuating accumulation in the country, where private owners hold the theory that sealing the new crop will be on such an extensive scale as to force prices substantially higher both to processors and live-stock feeders. The AAA makes no bones of its intention to boost corn cost to cattle and hog feeders in the interest of the grain raiser and, by holding old-crop corn and making a fictitious loan on new grain based on current prices, pull the latter at least partly out of a quagmire, incidentally demonstrating that "the plan" is working. Demand for cash corn from the industries is at low ebb, with scant prospect of a considerable volume of export trade.

#### Corn Crop Gaining

The maturing corn crop is making marked gains, suggesting that the final estimate figures will be marked up. Nebraska alone reports insufficient corn for feeding requirements; but, with abundance of sargo, both grain and roughage, will not draw on other states heavily. The South has the largest corn crop on record, and in the Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan areas plenitude exists everywhere, silo-filling with molasses-treated hay sending millions of bushels of corn to the crib in dairy sections heretofore buying grain in the belt proper.

That it will be possible to advance corn 5 to 10 cents per bushel by holding it out of commercial channels is not open to dispute, but that policy will merely aggravate a dangerous accumulation, incidentally sending cattle

and hogs to the shambles short of weight and condition. Light cattle consume only a modicum of corn, and that is the type feeders are betting their shekels on. If the 16 per cent increase in cattle feeding officially assumed were old-style two-year-old steers, increased corn consumption would naturally follow.

A 2,500,000,000-bushel corn crop is a generally accepted figure. Add 500,000 bushels carried over, in government and private hands, and feed abundance cannot be disputed. Holding it off the market will merely reduce current consumption, as the use of substitutes will be resorted to. Increased acreages in such crops as soy beans and sargo reduce corn needs, actually threatening the price of that grain. Possibly partly to meet this competition, grain sorghums will be designated "soil depleting" crops, with restricted acreage. Otherwise they could easily upset the program, especially by depriving corn of its silage outlet. Feeding up on the farm and in the feed-lot 90 per cent of 3,000,000,000 bushels of corn, which is probably a low estimate, is a prodigious task for live stock even if hog production has increased 20 per cent and 16 per cent more cattle are on feed than a year ago, all of which is important, with the reservation, coined by Sockless Jerry Simpson of Kansas, "if true."

Announcement of the new corn loan is awaited impatiently. The tentative figure is 55 cents per bushel, which will inaugurate the rush to seal, and AAA figures assert that 90 per cent of the crop is eligible to the loan, whatever it may be. This is actually a bet on 1940 physical conditions. Three big corn crops in a row may not lack precedent, but a bookmaker would give odds on a drought next year, in which event, even with the huge carryover, corn would be worth far more money despite the fact that the granary is far above "normal." Whether old corn is turned over to the government by borrowers or resealed makes scant difference, as it will figure in the visible supply and affect prices to that extent. The surplus, unless reduced by Dame Nature, promises to figure in the role of Jonah, although not to be jettisoned with the same facility.

#### Profit Reduced

Stocker and feeder prices did not keep company with values of fat cattle during the slump, so profit margins have been narrowed. If gain cost can be held down, feeders have a chance, although the best they can expect is a profitable figure for feed consumed, plus the resultant manure, which has no intrinsic value whatever except when spread over the soil.

Feeding lambs are also high compared with fat stock, which acts as a slight deterrent on investment. On the range feeders are costing \$7 to \$7.25 per cwt.; at the markets, \$7.75 to \$8.25. Early bought stock can be effectively

grazed down in cost and is the best buy. The market is made, unless something unforeseen happens, as potential demand is enormous. Ohio, reiterating 1938 tactics, is balking, threatening to abandon winter lamb feeding unless replacement is possible at \$7.50 to \$8, laid down, which "can't be did."

#### RETAIL PRICES

With choice light hogs costing \$6 to \$6.25 and fat lambs at \$8.25 to \$8.50, beef was mired. Practically excluded from chain-store advertising, the major lineage went to pork, poultry, and dairy

products. Subsequent to a Chicago conference between packers and western lamb growers, that meat was accorded a modicum of publicity by chain vendors; but, when beef received fitful mention, only trash—selling around pork prices—participated.

Cattle interests have a "kick coming." Regardless of where the product changes hands, beef is the costliest article in the meat category. This applies to retailers, restaurants, dining cars, and wherever bovine product changes hands. When a housekeeper is able to purchase a pork loin at 17 cents per

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pound, while a round steak costs 35 cents, she invariably invests in hog product. Steaks and roasts cut from qualified steers are above the purchasing capacity of the masses, who must be content with coarse cuts and boiling pieces. Restaurants camouflage by serving "pot" roasts, from which the victim derives more exercise than sustenance. Relatively high prices are paid for "scallywag" cattle, "car routers," "bow-wows," and other flotsam and jetsam. A 1,000-pound "car route" steer is eligible to \$9 to \$9.25 when long-fed; high-dressing bullocks fed eight months to a year and weighing 1,200 to 1,400 pounds sell at \$9 to \$9.25 and, lacking quality, as low as \$8.50.

#### Premiums on Beef

Hundreds of retailers impose on customers by insisting that they handle only No. 1 or No. 2 beef. When the customer objects to the "cut up" show case display, the vendor always has a side of "good beef" concealed in the recesses of his cooler which he produces as a placation measure and charges accordingly. Restaurants serve scraps, advertised on the menu as steaks, but always at a premium.

Some railroads are conspicuous offenders; others give the beef-maker a square deal. But the invariable rule is that beef is at the top menu price. Recently the writer took a jaunt on a crack Florida train known as the Dixie Flyer. The dinner cost \$1.25 for every item except beef, which carried the notation, "Small steak, \$1.60." When the conductor made his stereotyped inquiry concerning the degree of satisfaction the diner had reached at the conclusion of the meal, I replied: "How many steak orders did you fill?" "Only one, and you got it," he replied. Naturally the lower cost item gets the play. "Small" described the dollar-sixty steak accurately.

How long the pork orgy will last depends on cost. When packers were confronted with a huge grist of hogs—national slaughter has been running 15 per cent in excess of the corresponding period of 1938, while that of cattle is 5 per cent less—they launched a nationwide selling campaign, involving fresh pork, bacon, and ham, with particular stress on ham. Trade papers indulged in a veritable whoop'er-up effort to stimulate bacon consumption; from the Chicago headquarters of the Institute of American Meat Packers mimeographed broadcasts were scattered to retail trade in all directions, coupled with a score of methods for preparing it at the culinary stage. And the thing worked. Cheap eggs facilitated ham eating. "Tenderized" ham confronted buyers on every hand. How the campaign sold pork is demonstrated by the fact that despite a 15 per cent increase in swine slaughter during July stocks of pork in packers' cellars actually decreased and advertising was at least partly responsible, neither beef nor

lamb profiting by the expenditure. Lard participated in the dispensing effort at "two pounds for 15 cents," enabling renderers to effect substantial reduction in their accumulation.

Processors cannot be seriously taken to task, as their job is to "push" any article showing a profit. Retailers and restaurants invariably adopt the same policy. When a waiter is asked for the "best buy on the menu," he invariably suggests pork or poultry, and the average diner is peculiarly amenable to such suggestion.

"Beef costs too much; we cannot get our money out of it," explained the owner of a Chicago retail chain, quoting fabulous figures concerning wholesale charges. The writer hiked to a cooler, purchased a thirty-pound rib cut from a \$9.50 steer at 18 cents per pound, and displayed it to his chain-store acquaintance, who replied: "Your forte is buying beef; I cannot get it that way."

#### Lacks Selling Force

Anyhow, beef lacks selling force, with scant prospect of recovery. The season has been discouraging to processors and growers. New York's fair, advertised to absorb an enormous quantity of beef, has proved a flop. The Boston market is a bad actor; in fact, Boston-weight cattle have been notoriously hard to sell on the Chicago market, where that type has been available in profusion. So far as the writer can peer into the future, nothing can be done about it.

Cheap pork, as stated, has also swatted the summer lamb market down to an \$8.25 to \$8.50 basis as this is written, New England chain stores bidding 16½ cents per pound for No. 1 carcasses, leaving the processor scant, if any, margin after paying 2 cents per pound for freight, ice, and other incidentals. Yet lamb "stews" sell well above wholesale cost of the carcass, legs 75 to 100 per cent more, and chops—the sky is the limit—they sell them by the piece rather than weight.

#### Distribution Costs Excessive

Little wonder then that the freezer box is popular. Thousands of farmers and interior town residents are beating retail cost by resorting to that method of supplying their tables. What aggravates live-stock growers is the disparity between what their product realizes and the consumer pays. This carries no assertion that retailers are rolling in wealth. The trouble lies in excessive cost of distribution, for which labor and an increasing galaxy of taxes are responsible. Sherman Rodgers in *Outlook* magazine recently quoted figures by the Department of Commerce showing that employees of retail establishments get 90 to 96 per cent of each net revenue dollar; the employer, 4 to 10 cents.

And that's where the money goes. Labor union exactions and taxes have substantially increased processing cost, and the end is not in sight. The burden is borne by the producer.

## INCONGRUITIES

Incongruities throng live-stock channels. Fat steers are selling on a weight basis; the more avoirdupois they total the lower the price. Eight- to nine-hundred-pound yearlings realize \$10, both steers and heifers; 1,400-pound bullocks, good enough for a show, go at \$9.50; chunks of beef, fed a year and weighing anywhere from 1,300 to 1,350 pounds, at \$9 to \$9.25. A load of desirable 1,500-pound bullocks has difficulty in getting a bid.

Transversely, warmed-up light steers are worth \$9 to \$9.25; "bowwows," \$8 to \$8.25. Apparently this does not make sense.

Cows convertible into "hot dog" filler are prize packages. A fat cow has a dependable market. Processors are boosting "dogs" with expensive advertising. "Swift," champion of that delectable specialty, is spending a barrel of coin urging consumers to make a test meal of a new type of guaranteed digestibility. It is a super "dog" freighted not with vitamins A, B, C, and D, but loaded with "enzymes" generated by soaking or spraying with pineapple juice. Like Kansas potatoes, that according to a popular rhyme "grew small," you can eat 'em skins and all. Sausage casings that formerly enjoyed a European outlet are in much the same sad condition as lard. By ingenious treatment with "enzymes" they are made more palatable, also yield more sustenance than the contents. This marks progress by the cattle industry.

### Stockers Beat Bullocks

Another queer wrinkle is higher prices for stockers than fat bullocks. A drove of choice spring calves goes to a feeder anywhere from \$9.50 to \$10; killers bid \$9 to \$9.50 for long-fed steers. Killers bag a large percentage of fleshy steers—two-way cattle—because feeders dodge weight.

Fat and feeding lambs are practically on a parity—at least they are running neck and neck. Feeders are as high as at any time; fat ones at the lowest level of the season.

A few weeks ago packers treated heavy-lard-yielding hogs with the same disdain as big steers. A turn in the market road restored weight to popularity. At the turn of the tide they scrambled for fat sows and heavy butchers after expostulating that lard was unsalable and heavy southern belly cuts excluded from the ancient southern outlet. Overnight the lard "bogey" was consigned to the can. Prices advanced five successive days despite lugubrious forecasts from Packingtown, and for no apparent logical reason.

### Return Empty Handed

Corn Belt feeders hiking South to acquire low-grade cattle return empty-handed. Soil conservation operations in the sugar cane and cotton belts are responsible for a wealth of otherwise use-

less feed, so that Dixieland is embarking on beef making, creating a local demand.

Jackson, Mississippi, advertises a sale of 5,000 Hereford, locally-grown calves, for September 13. Possibly these are the progeny of western drought refugee cows sent south by the government several years ago. Railroads and extension officials are boosting calf raising everywhere south of the Ohio River. Down in the Mississippi Delta, beef making is enjoying a veritable boom. Only high cost of western cows exerts a restraining influence.

Bankers urge borrowers to buy light cattle, calves, and yearlings. The next switch will be to fleshy feeders. Indications of that trend are already detected; but, when a feeder puts down a bid on steers with a beef sheathing, a packer buyer is usually on the job forcing the feeder to raise his ante.

Veal calves cost \$9.50 to \$10.50, or more than fat, long-fed bullocks; lambs are worth \$8 to \$8.25; and the two products are presumably in competition.

Those who had sufficient foresight

during the drought period to acquire western cows for breeding purposes are on the shady side of Easy Street. Expansion of calf growing in the Corn Belt is restrained only by scarcity and present cost of cows. Registered-cattle growers are reaping a harvest, refusing to sell their 1939 increase, especially the heifer end.

## WOOL UNDERTONE FIRM, HIDES SKIP DECLINE

BY J. E. P.

A QUIET WOOL MARKET DIS-  
CLOSES A FIRM UNDERTONE. Bulk of the  
new clip is out of first hands, holders are  
not pressing it on the market, and buyers  
appear to have sufficient on hand for  
the moment. Nominally bright fleece  
wools are on a 28- to 31-cent basis, in  
the grease. Half-blood combing is mov-  
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at 67 to 69 cents, scoured basis, and average to short length at 64 to 66 cents. There is nothing about the market to generate enthusiasm, but the trade is not looking for lower prices. A rising market has been checked, at least temporarily. August is almost invariably a dull month in wool circles; this time it ran true to form.

That the tendency is upward is consensus in weaving circles, spinners having notified clothing manufacturers that they cannot expect cheaper wool as a basis for lower-cost fabrics. Consumers have been replenishing wardrobes, reducing dealers' stocks almost to the bare-shelf stage. Salient features of the industry are:

#### Mills Active

Wool-goods mills are actively producing heavyweight fabrics for fall and winter wear.

Substantial orders for fall fabrics were booked in May. Meanwhile new business is mainly tropical worsteds and gabardines for 1940 summer trade at prices 10 per cent higher than a year ago.

Unfinished business in heavyweight fabrics to clothing manufacturers is well above a year ago. Demand for women's wear has picked up after a dull period.

Domestic stocks of raw wool may be reduced to low levels before desirable grades can be imported from Australia early in the winter. Stocks are moderately below the average of the past ten years at this period. A large proportion of the 1939 clip has moved directly from shearing pens to mills.

#### Consumption Up

Census reports are that consumption of wool in June was 54,000,000 pounds when converted to the basis for shorn wool. This was considerably higher than the consumption for May and represented a return to the highest consumption that has been reported since early in 1937. The total consumption for the twelve months ending June 30, 1939, was 635,000,000 pounds when converted to the grease basis. This is about 165,000,000 pounds more than the annual production in the United States. From this it is clear that the present rate of consumption can only be sustained with importations, which will have a tendency to cause the foreign markets to advance.

Department of Agriculture has estimated the clip of shorn wool at 376,699,000 pounds, an increase of about 1 per cent above last year and making it the second highest clip on record in the United States. During the first six months, production of pulled wool was slightly less than for the corresponding period of the previous year, and, therefore, there is a possibility that the total production will not be much greater than in 1938.

The number of sheep sheared showed an increase of about 2 per cent, but the fleeces weighed slightly less on the average this year. Texas showed a decline in production the first time in the past

few years, but this decline was offset by some increase in other western states and also an increase in the production of the farm states.

A detail of Boston trade late in August follows:

*Fleeces.*—Graded bright fleece wools received practically no demand in Boston during the past week. Holders could not interest users at current quotations and they were not willing to mark down quotations in an effort to find a level at which the wools might be attractive to mills. Asking prices were mostly steady on country packed offerings of three-eighths and quarter blood fleeces. Bright fleeces of these grades offered from the country were quoted mostly 32 to 33 cents in the grease, delivered to users; but mills were not interested at these prices. An occasional offering at prices a small fraction of a cent under 32 cents, in the grease, was sold. Semi-bright fleeces of three-eighths and quarter blood grades mixed were quoted mostly steady at 27 to 28 cents, in the grease, delivered, for average wools. Some of the lighter shrinking fleeces generally recognized as semi-bright from Minnesota and North Dakota were held at 29 cents, in the grease, delivered.

*Territory Wools.*—Graded territory wools generally were quiet and quotations were firm. Dealers that grade wools were busy making deliveries against previous orders, and they were not making much effort to secure new orders. Numerous holdings continued to be quoted above recent selling prices. While buyers generally were not active in the market, an occasional buyer in his regular rounds of the market would take choice original bag lots that were particularly suited to his needs. Bulk staple combing length original bag lots of territory wools were sold at 72 to 73 cents, scoured basis, for fine, and at 69 to 70 cents, scoured basis, for mixed fine and half blood clips. Quotations were mostly unchanged in original bag good French combing length fine territory wools, 67 to 69 cents, scoured basis. Occasional offerings of average to short French combing length fine territory wools in original bags were slightly easier—64 to 66 cents, scoured basis.

*Texas Wools.*—Twelve-months Texas wools received some demand, most sales being of rather limited volume. Choice clips of bulk staple combing length brought 72 to 73 cents, scoured basis, while average wools sold at 67 to 71 cents, scoured basis. Eight-months and fall wools in the grease were slow, but sales were of fair volume on scoured lines—67 to 68 cents for eight-months and 61 to 63 cents for fall wools.

The National Association of Wool Manufacturers reports that woven wool goods sales by 119 producers equipped with 27,000 looms averaged 3,311,000 yards per week during a four-week period ending around July—a gain over 1938 of 29.4 per cent compared with last year.

#### Hides Hold

No midsummer decline developed in the hide market this year, due to a brisk trade in footwear, and the season is here when production of fall shoes reaches the peak. Manufacturers began producing fall footwear several weeks in advance of the usual schedule, and the run is concentrating heavier than usual in the third quarter, with a prospect of curtailment during the last three months. The hide market has a firm undertone, stimulated by further shrinkage in July take-off. Jobber and retailer inventories are not heavy, although considered adequate.

Current orders for sole and upper leather are not urgent, as prices were marked up recently in line with higher hide quotations. Tanners' hide holdings are light, but caution is the slogan. Future purchases of leather and hides may depend on repeat orders for shoes.

Hide prices hold strong, tanners paying up to 12 cents per pound for moderate quantities of June and July take-off of light native cows, compared with 9½ cents at the low time in April. Futures are at the highest level in four months.

Current quotations follow:

#### PACKER STEERS

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Heavy natives, 53 lbs. up.....      | 11  |
| Ex-light natives, 48 lbs. down..... | 11½ |
| Heavy Texas, 58 lbs. up.....        | 11  |
| Heavy butts, 58 lbs. up.....        | 11  |
| Heavy Colorado, 58 lbs. up.....     | 10½ |

#### PACKER Cows

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Heavy natives, 53 lbs. up.....   | 11  |
| Light natives, 53 lbs. down..... | 11  |
| Branded, all weights.....        | 10½ |

#### COUNTRY HIDES AND SKINS

|                                      |      |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Heavies, trim, 58 lbs. up, flat..... | 7    |
| Extremes, trim, 23-43 lbs.....       | 10½  |
| Buffs, trim, 43-58 lbs.....          | 8½   |
| All weights, untrim, 25 lbs.....     | 8-8½ |
| Brands, trimmed, flat.....           | 7    |

### CATTLE ON FEED 16 PER CENT MORE THAN YEAR AGO

**C**ATTLE ON FEED FOR MARKET in the Corn Belt on August 1 numbered 16 per cent more than those on feed a year ago, according to estimate by the Agricultural Marketing Service. The increase was general, only one state in the area not showing larger numbers.

The relative number of cattle on feed has increased as the year progressed, January 1 showing an estimated 7 per cent over the year earlier, April 1, 13 per cent, and now—August 1—16 per cent. The latter figure, representing an increase larger than any year of record beginning in 1928, doubtless reflects the record stocks of corn in the Corn Belt on July 1 and the high price of cattle in relation to corn prices prevailing since last fall.

The number on feed probably was not greatly different from average for that date in pre-drought years. There was, however, a much different distribution. A larger proportion was in the states east of the Mississippi River and a smaller proportion west of the Missouri.

For the Corn Belt as a whole, 33 per cent of the cattle on feed had been at the bunkers less than four months; that is, placed on feed after April 1. About 37 per cent had been on feed from four to seven months; about 30 per cent had been on feed over seven months. Considerable differences were noted in these percentages between the eastern and the western Corn Belt. In the eastern section only 26 per cent had been on feed less than four months; 33 per cent, from four to seven months; and 40 per cent, over seven months. In the western Corn Belt these percentages were 37, 42, and 21, respectively.

The estimated number of cattle on feed August 1, 1939, as a percentage of the number a year earlier in the different states is as follows:

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Ohio            | 112 |
| Indiana         | 112 |
| Illinois        | 115 |
| Michigan        | 120 |
| Wisconsin       | 105 |
| Minnesota       | 100 |
| Iowa            | 120 |
| Missouri        | 110 |
| South Dakota    | 125 |
| Nebraska        | 120 |
| Kansas          | 110 |
| Total Corn Belt | 116 |

## VERMONT PROVIDES BANG'S CLEAN-UP THROUGH VACCINE

A LAW HAS BEEN PASSED IN Vermont to provide plans for the control of Bang's disease through the use of vaccine as well as other methods.

Under the law the Department of Agriculture, in making the plans available to stockmen, is to "recognize that each herd is a problem in itself, taking into consideration the extent and virility of the infection, the ability of the cattle owners to carry out the provisions of the several plans, the chance for reinfection, and the cost to the state."

The act provides for four plans:

(1) Owner shall dispose either by slaughter or sale only to owners of infected herds of reactors within six months of date of an "informative" test, with state paying for testing until herd is accredited.

(2) Owner may retain and segregate reactors, get "informative" and three annual tests at state's expense "from blood samples drawn by approved veterinarian at owner's expense unless any test reveals no reactors, in which case two additional tests" will be made. Disposal of reactors and certification as in plan No. 1.

(3) Owner may retain reactors without segregation, agree to calfood vaccination by approved veterinarian at own expense with three or five tests made by state, and get "vaccinated herd" certificate when tests are negative, save in case of animals under eighteen months, and provided that virgin females have been vaccinated as calves. Reactor disposal as in No. 1.

(4) Provides for indemnity by the state on reactors.

## HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

| Commodity in Pounds    | Aug. 1, 1939† | July 1, 1939 | Aug. 1, 1938 | 5-Yr Average |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Frozen Beef            | 22,154,000    | 21,885,000   | 24,023,000   | 31,686,000   |
| Cured Beef*            | 11,337,000    | 11,706,000   | 11,902,000   | 16,579,000   |
| Lamb and Mutton        | 1,892,000     | 1,837,000    | 1,972,000    | 1,783,000    |
| Frozen Pork            | 155,161,000   | 183,870,000  | 98,217,000   | 120,440,000  |
| Dry Salt Pork*         | 93,124,000    | 91,572,000   | 82,001,000   | 80,634,000   |
| Pickled Pork*          | 206,673,000   | 221,354,000  | 198,763,000  | 259,265,000  |
| Miscellaneous          | 68,948,000    | 68,452,000   | 60,808,000   | 61,724,000   |
| Total Meats            | 559,289,000   | 600,676,000  | 477,686,000  | 572,111,000  |
| Lard                   | 139,941,000   | 148,377,000  | 123,677,000  | 135,119,000  |
| Frozen Poultry         | 65,138,000    | 67,470,000   | 52,640,000   | 51,613,000   |
| Creamery Butter        | 165,094,000   | 131,609,000  | 173,257,000  | 131,751,000  |
| Eggs (case equivalent) | 11,103,000    | 11,019,000   | 10,278,000   | 11,620,000   |

\*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision.

## CHICAGO LIVE STOCK PRICES

|  | Aug. 15, 1939 | July 17, 1939 | Aug. 15, 1938 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Slaughter Steers—Ch. (1,100-1,500 lbs.)  | \$ 8.75-10.00 | \$ 9.25-10.00 | \$10.00-11.50 |
| Slaughter Steers—Good                    | 8.00- 9.00    | 8.50- 9.25    | 9.00-10.25    |
| Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.)    | 9.25-10.00    | 9.25-10.00    | 10.00-11.00   |
| Slaughter Steers—Good                    | 8.50- 9.25    | 8.75- 9.25    | 8.75-10.00    |
| Slaughter Steers—Med. (750-1,300 lbs.)   | 7.00- 8.50    | 7.50- 8.50    | 7.50- 9.00    |
| Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (500-900 lbs.)  | 8.75-10.25    | 8.75-10.00    | 8.75-10.75    |
| Heifers—Good-Choice                      | 8.75-10.00    | 8.75- 9.75    | 8.25-10.50    |
| Cows—Good                                | 6.25- 7.00    | 6.50- 7.00    | 6.25- 7.00    |
| Vealers—Good-Choice                      | 9.50-10.50    | 9.00-10.00    | 8.50-10.75    |
| Calves—Good-Choice                       | 7.50- 8.50    | 7.50- 9.00    | 6.50- 8.00    |
| Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice..  | 8.00- 9.25    | 8.00- 9.50    | 7.00- 9.75    |
| Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med. .... | 6.50- 8.00    | 7.00- 8.25    | 6.25- 7.50    |
| Hogs—Medium Weights (200-240 lbs.)....   | 5.85- 6.15    | 6.90- 7.20    | 8.50- 8.75*   |
| Spring Lambs—Good-Choice.....            | 8.75- 9.00    | 9.25- 9.65    | 7.85- 8.35    |
| Yearling Wethers—Good-Choice (shorn).... | 6.50- 7.75    | .....         | 6.00- 7.00    |
| Ewes—Good-Choice (shorn).....            | 2.75- 3.75    | 2.75- 3.50    | 3.25- 3.75    |

\*200-250 lbs.

## WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

| FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—                   | Aug. 15, 1939 | July 17, 1939 | Aug. 15, 1938 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Steers—Choice (700 lbs. up).....       | \$14.50-15.50 | \$15.50-16.50 | \$16.00-17.50 |
| Steers—Good .....                      | 13.50-14.50   | 14.50-15.50   | 14.00-16.00   |
| Steers—Choice (500-700 lbs.).....      | 14.50-16.00   | 15.50-17.00   | 16.00-17.50   |
| Steers—Good .....                      | 13.50-15.00   | 14.50-16.00   | 14.00-16.00   |
| Yearling Steers—Choice .....           | 15.50-16.50   | 16.00-17.00   | 16.00-17.50   |
| Yearling Steers—Good .....             | 14.50-15.50   | 15.00-16.00   | 14.00-16.00   |
| Cows—Commercial* .....                 | 11.00-12.00   | 12.00-12.50   | 11.00-11.50   |
| Vealers—Choice .....                   | 15.00-16.50   | 15.00-16.00   | 15.00-16.00   |
| Vealers—Good .....                     | 14.00-15.00   | 14.00-15.00   | 14.00-15.00   |
| FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—                 |               |               |               |
| Spring Lambs—Choice (55 lbs. down).... | 16.50-18.00   | 18.50-20.00   | 15.00-17.00   |
| Spring Lambs—Good.....                 | 15.00-17.00   | 17.00-19.00   | 13.00-15.00   |
| Ewes—Good .....                        | 6.00- 7.00    | 9.00-10.00    | 8.00- 9.00    |
| FRESH PORK CUTS—                       |               |               |               |
| Loins—8-12 lb. average .....           | 16.00-18.00   | 17.50-19.00   | 18.00-19.50   |

\*Previous classification, "Good."

## LIVE STOCK AT STOCK YARDS

|  | July<br>1939 | July<br>1938 | First Seven Months<br>1939 | First Seven Months<br>1938 |
|--|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS—</b>                             |              |              |                            |                            |
| Cattle* .....                                | 1,115,993    | 1,128,083    | 7,254,010                  | 7,444,520                  |
| Calves .....                                 | 550,813      | 502,308      | 3,567,983                  | 3,560,873                  |
| Hogs .....                                   | 1,947,783    | 1,569,570    | 15,333,190                 | 13,690,434                 |
| Sheep .....                                  | 2,042,177    | 1,963,564    | 12,755,725                 | 13,645,967                 |
| <b>TOTAL SHIPMENTS—</b>                      |              |              |                            |                            |
| Cattle* .....                                | 433,401      | 463,789      | 2,791,970                  | 2,870,995                  |
| Calves .....                                 | 230,765      | 194,771      | 1,335,406                  | 1,216,786                  |
| Hogs .....                                   | 546,157      | 444,079      | 4,032,995                  | 4,007,870                  |
| Sheep .....                                  | 1,039,951    | 992,146      | 5,800,860                  | 5,962,025                  |
| <b>STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—</b>         |              |              |                            |                            |
| Cattle* .....                                | 180,898      | 200,646      | 1,247,011                  | 1,188,132                  |
| Calves .....                                 | 60,909       | 40,986       | 380,539                    | 245,899                    |
| Hogs .....                                   | 35,487       | 31,827       | 294,500                    | 257,096                    |
| Sheep .....                                  | 260,829      | 177,254      | 1,217,704                  | 822,442                    |
| <b>SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—</b> |              |              |                            |                            |
| Cattle* .....                                | 702,109      | 820,031      | 5,239,263                  | 5,511,974                  |
| Calves .....                                 | 416,795      | 436,265      | 3,109,545                  | 3,237,095                  |
| Hogs .....                                   | 2,777,862    | 2,253,530    | 22,472,536                 | 19,478,077                 |
| Sheep .....                                  | 1,399,064    | 1,461,255    | 9,706,717                  | 10,324,788                 |

\*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

# FOREIGN

## LIVE STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA

BY A. C. MILLS

**A**CTING ON A THEORY, CREDIT for which he gives to the Department of Agricultural Economics of Cornell University, United States, that the beef cattle industry is subject to cycles like other businesses and trades, the Queensland government statistician has just advised breeders to operate against the upward or downward trends of prices and production. He assumes that, as sharply defined peaks in values happened in both the British and American markets in 1885, 1899, 1914-15, and 1928-30, there must be something approaching a fourteen-year cycle and that the next peak is due to occur two or three years hence.

There is, he asserts, a perfectly good reason for the existence of such cycles. Whenever cattle prices are high, graziers hold beasts back to replenish the herds. The cow is not like the pig, and the increasing of the cattle population is a comparatively slow process. But an increase once started tends to continue, even though prices are no longer high, till finally a stage is reached where cattle production is quite unremunerative and graziers reduce their breeding herds. Here again the reduction once started is cumulative and continues until supplies become scarce and the price rapidly rises.

He goes on to say that we are now in the declining-numbers increasing-price phase, and the principal point of interest is to determine how long it will last. As cattle numbers have already started to move up in the United States and in some parts of Australia, the statistician expresses the opinion that the price boom will break in 1941, if not next year. Graziers who wish to take advantage of the cycle, therefore, should swim against the tide. They should, he advises, deplete their herds as much as possible at the present moment and replenish them again when beef prices are low.

The theory is interesting but the advice is not altogether to the point. Climatic conditions, which in this country is synonymous with feed conditions, influence breeding and selling far more than mere fluctuations in values. Calf crops are large in flush years and small in droughts, and while it is true that in periods of high prices there is a tendency to offer for slaughter near-fats and even in some cases breeding cows, the main factor governing marketing is and always will be "condition." This year, as it happens, feed is plentiful and large numbers of fats will be marketed. It is a safe bet also that there will be no well-defined attempt at birth control in herds. Nature is far too apt to do that for breeders to interfere voluntarily.

### Co-operative Launched

An organization for the marketing of stock on owners' account, known as the Queensland Live Stock Producers' Co-operative Association, has been launched in Brisbane. The principal aims and objects of the association are as follows:

1. To treat members' live stock and to market the resultant products as produced for the benefit of such members.
2. To insure to producers full market values for their live stock.
3. To improve the methods of handling live stock.
4. To endeavor to raise the quality of Queensland beef cattle by securing a premium for choice-quality beef.
5. To insure a regular supply of chiller quality cattle.
6. To assist in securing a fast freight service to the United Kingdom affording a regular weekly arrival.
7. To demonstrate to producers the benefit of marketing a portion of their live stock in the early and late months of the year.
8. To endeavor to stabilize the beef cattle industry.

It may be explained in connection with point 7 that the peak production period of fat cattle in Queensland coincides with the period when overseas markets for beef are usually at their lowest level. The conveners of the meeting that launched the scheme stated that a definite effort to flatten out that peak and to maintain a regular supply throughout the year would have to be made. They claimed that the most effective way to do it would be through a producers organization treating their own cattle on a co-operative basis.

As owners of the existing proprietary meat export plants can hardly be expected to assist what they may regard as a rival organization, it may be taken for granted that the proposed co-operative will slaughter and chill its cattle at the Queensland Meat Industry Board's

abattoir in Brisbane, the operative capacity of which has lately been extended. The Queensland government has given an undertaking that it will help financially a voluntary co-operative association if sufficient members are obtained to provide a supply of cattle sufficient to insure its successful operation. At date of writing no information is available to indicate what support has been promised by breeders and fatteners.

### Meat Exports

Interesting statistics relative to exports of frozen and chilled meat from Australia during the twelve months ended June 30 are published in the current issue of the *Pastoral Review*. The following table summarizes the output in comparison with the previous year (000 omitted):

|                             | 1938-39 | 1937-38 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| Beef, frozen quarters.....  | 1,117   | 1,276   |
| Beef, chilled quarters..... | 395     | 411     |
| Mutton, frozen carcases.... | 784     | 1,132   |
| Lamb, frozen carcases.....  | 4,955   | 5,196   |

The drought which prevailed over much of Australia last winter and summer was the main factor contributing to the smaller shipments. So far as beef is concerned, its effect was to cause a marked division to southern markets for local consumption of northern beef and cattle that normally would have been sent oversea. With mutton and lamb it was simply a case of dry weather restricting the export surplus.

### Switch to Chilled Beef

The swing over from frozen to chilled beef exports, which has been a feature of the beef trade of recent years, was maintained during the last twelve months. In the year ended June 30, 1939, 26.1 per cent of all quarters of beef shipped was chilled, compared with 24.4 per cent in 1937-38, 21 per cent in 1936-37, and 14 per cent in 1935-36.

The importance of the British market to the Australian trade is illustrated by the fact that 91.29 per cent of all beef, 93.7 per cent of the mutton, and 98.83 per cent of the lamb exported was consigned to British ports. Of the 131,724 quarters beef shipped to other than British destinations, some 90,000 went to Mediterranean ports and was mainly to fill British Army and Navy contracts. In addition nearly 29,000 quarters were shipped to Singapore and Hongkong for the same purpose.

Practically all northern packing plants now are operating to capacity, treating cattle for the export trade. Thanks to the favorable season (climatically) which is being experienced, the bulk of supplies are dressing out well. Buying rates hold firm. In south Queensland \$7.20 to \$8 per 100 pounds, delivered, is being paid for first steers, \$6 for seconds, and \$5.25 for thirds. For maiden cows, \$6 is offered for firsts, \$5.25 for seconds, and \$4.55 for thirds, and, for other cows, 25 cents a hundred less all round. In central Queensland the rate for steers is



\$6.50 for firsts, \$5.75 for seconds, and \$5 for thirds, with maiden cows \$1.45 and other cows \$1.70 a hundred lower, while, in the north, first steers are fetching \$5.75 to \$6 per 100 pounds, maiden cows \$4.80 to \$5, and other cows \$4.55 to \$4.80.

## GRAZING IN AUSTRALIA\*

BY MARVIN KLEMME

THE AREA OF AUSTRALIA IS APPROXIMATELY the same as that of the United States but supports fewer than 7,000,000 people. About two-thirds of these people are located in the cities or larger towns along the coast, which means that the great interior of Australia is very sparsely settled. The population is 97 per cent British stock, and, with the exception of the few thousand aborigines, the population is all white. About half of the aborigines are located on "reservations," and the remainder are employed on the big sheep and cattle "stations" generally receiving as pay only miscellaneous food, clothing, tobacco, etc.

Australia, with the exception of a narrow fringe along the coast and a couple of irrigation projects, is a "big man's" country. Many of the stations (ranches) contain 500,000 acres of deeded land, fenced and cross fenced. In the case of Crown lands (public domain), the ranches are generally much larger, running up to as much as 3,000,000 acres.

The principal reason for these large holdings is the small carrying capacity of the range and the unfavorable climatic conditions. I spent a couple of days on one large sheep station that was running 150,000 sheep and quite a bunch of cattle. One cow outfit runs 75,000 head.

Droughts sometimes extend over a period of years and have completely wiped out many outfits. Much of the country receives less than eight inches of rainfall per annum. In severe droughts, the stock are driven out largely and disposed of at a great sacrifice. To some extent, the heat in the interior is as bad as the drought. It is not uncommon at all for the thermometer to register as high as 120 degrees, and, this summer, during the awful forest and brush fires, it registered as high as 130 degrees in the interior and 110 degrees on the sea coast.

Even in spite of its handicaps, Australia has achieved many things of which it may be justly proud. About 85 per cent of Australia's sheep are Merinos which have been bred for a fine quality of wool. The manner in which the wool is sheared, graded, and baled, and the way the wool sales are conducted are all very remarkable and are one of the reasons Australia has a strong foothold on the world's wool market. The fact that

\* Reprinted from "Grazing Bulletin," a Department of the Interior publication. Mr. Klemme is a regional grazier in the Division of Grazing, United States Department of the Interior.

this country competes successfully with America in the wool trade is due almost entirely to the quality of the wool and not to cheap labor or an appreciable lower cost of production. The climate of most of the country is not adaptable to the production of good mutton, and, for this reason, many of the wethers are kept for wool production. The average clip is about eight and a half pounds per head.

Most of the country is level to rolling, so that it is unnecessary to use pack horses; instead, sulkies (one-seated buggies) are used in which the "drover"

(herder) transports his supplies. The efficient manner in which the Australian sheep dog has been trained is simply unbelievable. The only predatory animal is the "dingo," or wild dog, which at times does considerable damage to sheep and even kills young calves. It resembles a yellow cur dog and is thought to have been brought to Australia by the aborigines from Asia hundreds of years ago. The domesticated dingo is regarded as a valuable food animal by the aborigines.

Hares and rabbits do much damage to

## YOU CANNOT FIND A More Practical Method for the Marketing of Your Live Stock

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*The open market is where values are established and essentially where competition is greatest.*

## WHAT ABOUT LARD?

Lack of demand is reducing the price of lard. The price of lard is reducing the price of hogs. Sooner or later the price of hogs will reduce the price of beef and lamb. So what?

Meat producers must all be more serious about promoting the consumption of their products, because they are all in the same boat. More and better organizations will find the answer.

## National Live Stock Marketing Ass'n

160 North La Salle Street  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

the range. These were brought into this country as household pets and gradually increased to the point where they became a serious menace. The government pays out rabbit bounties each year, and millions of Australian rabbit skins are shipped to the United States annually. Kangaroos and emus (Australian ostrich) are still found in considerable number in the interior. Both of these animals can give a race horse keen competition at any time.

One of the most unusual things about the country is the very distinct mirages. Looking out across the level desert country on a hot afternoon, one can see great numbers of "large lakes." Some people even go as far as to say they can see trees along the shore lines, with small boats sailing on the water.

## BRITISH LIVE STOCK LETTER

BY J. RAYMOND

ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING FEATURES of the summer show season, now drawing to a close, has been the revived interest shown in British beef breeds by overseas buyers, among whom representatives of continental governments have been prominent. At the centenary royal show of the Royal Agricultural Society, held in Windsor Great Park, the record entries of beef cattle in all classes aroused considerable comment, and this year the leading beef breeds headed the parade of the 600 "mentioned" animals in the main ring. Shorthorns led the way, followed by Herefords, Aberdeen-Angus, Devons, Lincoln Reds, and Galloways, in that order, with the dual-purpose breeds, including the Red Polls, forming the intermediate link with the dairy breeds.

In the live-stock classes, with figures for last year's event in parenthesis, the entries included 976 horses (524), 1819 head of cattle (1075), 114 goats (63), 728 sheep (662), and 911 pigs (634). Of the beef cattle entries no fewer than 151 Aberdeen-Angus were forward. Southdowns headed the sheep entries, while in the pig section the Large White breed alone paraded 269 representatives. Visits by the King and other members of the royal family added to the popularity of Britain's best summer show in recent years.

### Fat Cattle Prices Firm

In the majority of instances fat-cattle prices remain firm, although reduced numbers are coming forward. The demand remains steady, with no immediate falling off to any marked extent anticipated. The last official returns quote an average price of \$10.20 per live cwt. for first quality and \$9.35 per live cwt. for second quality cattle of all breeds. Store cattle have met with fair demand, meeting with more competition from animals imported from the Irish Free State. Values all round are regarded as satis-

factory, yearlings averaging \$54 per head, two-year-olds \$78, and three-year-olds \$100 per head. Quotations for rearing are reduced at several centers, and veal calves are quoted at 25 cents per pound for first quality and 20 cents per pound for second quality.

Light pennings of fat sheep are selling freely, with Downs and Crossbreds averaging 25 cents per pound for firsts, 19 cents for seconds, and 17.5 cents for third quality animals. Store sheep are forward in good condition, meeting an active inquiry, and all classes are selling at prices that compare favorably with those prevailing a year ago. Lambs are in good request, and, on balance, average quotations are firm at 21 cents a pound for first quality and 18 cents for second quality.

Fair supplies of fat pigs are meeting a sharp inquiry, particularly baconers, which are quoted at \$3.50 per score. Porkers are appearing in small numbers and are fetching up to \$4 per score for first quality, and \$3.20 per score for second quality. Fair supplies of store pigs are selling freely.

## FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

SARCITY OF AGRICULTURAL LABOR seems to increase nearly everywhere, according to the International Labor Office Year Book recently published in Geneva. "The manufacturing industries, and recently rearment works, the construction of fortifications, aerodromes, etc., it asserts, "attract the agricultural worker by their more favorable labor conditions, while the countryside, as a result of its reduced birth rate, no longer affords the same surplus population as formerly." In the United States, however, the Year Book points out that there does not seem to be a lack of labor in agriculture. Special interest this year attaches to the development of wage-fixing systems in agriculture. In Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Ireland, Scotland, Mexico, and New Zealand special committees were appointed to adjust wages and to examine the general principles of wages and working conditions in agriculture. The Year Book also mentions Secretary of Agriculture Wallace's series of decrees, authorized in the Sugar Act of 1937, fixing wages for American workers in sugar beet and sugar cane cultivation.

### WORLD WHEAT

World wheat production for 1939 will be the largest since the World War except for last year's crop, the International Institute of Agriculture predicts. Declaring that excess supplies alone will be equivalent to one year's consumption requirements, the institute stated that the market will continue glutted through 1940, and possibly 1941. In pointing out the obstacles confronting any possible worth while increase in import demand, the institute stated that even the import-

ing countries themselves have heavy wheat stocks remaining from last year's supplies. . . . A newspaper item under date of July 20 said that wheat reached an all-time low on the Liverpool market at 3 shillings 6 1/4 pence a cental. The drop was attributed to efforts to unload huge stocks of Argentine wheat.

## PRODUCTION AIDS

Colombia is to come to the aid of her cattle industry. A national cattle loan fund of 5,000,000 pesos (about \$2,858,000) from which loans are to be made to farmers for facilitating the breeding and raising of cattle has been authorized, according to "Foreign Agriculture." A council to administer the fund will have a life of forty years. It will make mortgage loans for gradual amortization over a period of twenty years; make and guarantee five-year loans by chattel mortgages on live stock and live-stock products or property; and make duly guaranteed loans for development and expansion of the cattle-breeding industry. . . . To stimulate beef and lamb production, which is too small and irregular for a regular export trade, the Union of South Africa will provide a subsidy to encourage greater production.

## FOOT-AND-MOUTH SERUM

Reports to the Scandinavian Veterinary Congress of tests by a research station of a new serum for foot-and-mouth disease, are, it is stated in the *Meat Trades Journal* (London), very promising, and bear out results obtained in preliminary experiments in Germany. "The treatment is by no means perfect, for it apparently reacts differently according to the circumstances of the case, but it is clear that a considerable period of immunity results from treatment with the serum."

## STOCKMEN'S BOOKSHELF

WORLD PRODUCTION IN MEAT. This monograph by the International Institute of Agriculture is No. 3 in the institute's series of "Studies of Principal Agricultural Products on the World Market," and supplements No. 2, which appeared in 1938 as "International Trade in Meat." The new volume may be ordered either direct from the institute at Rome, Italy, or from G. E. Stechert and Company, 31 East Tenth Street, New York, N. Y. Price \$1.60. Taken together, the two monographs represent a valuable source of statistical and textual information relative to world live-stock resources (cattle, hogs, and sheep) and the world's meat trade. The new volume sketches the economic history of each type of live stock and its chief meat products, including comments on the effects of national policy on production programs in recent years.

**PLANS OF FARM BUILDINGS FOR WESTERN STATES.** Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication No. 319, pp. 120, illustrated. Address Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 60 cents. Presents illustration and construction details for various farm buildings such as houses; barns; cattle, sheep, and hog shelters; and storage buildings. Describes briefly suitable types of equipment for these buildings.

**COMPARISON OF ALFALFA AND WESTERN WHEATGRASS HAYS FOR WINTERING YEARLING HEIFERS IN THE NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON SUMMER GAINS**, by A. L. Baker, assistant animal husbandman, Animal Husbandry Division, Bureau of Animal Industry. For sale by Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Price 5 cents.

**SILOS—TYPES AND CONSTRUCTION.** Farmers' Bulletin 1820. Write to Office of Information, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Free. The bulletin deals with the various kinds of above-ground and below-ground silos and contains the necessary details of construction, with handy tables of dimensions and helpful illustrations. It contains special information on construction needs for silos to hold different kinds of silage. Extra reinforcement is recommended for walls of silos to be filled with silage made from sunflowers, pea vines, hay, and molasses, or from corn very high in moisture.

**ERADICATING TUBERCULOSIS FROM LIVE STOCK AND POULTRY** is the title of a new film strip released by the Department of Agriculture. For information regarding this and other film strips write Extension Service, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. While the United States is now practically free of tuberculosis of cattle, the new strip is intended, through its illustration of some of the ways in which tuberculosis may attack live stock and practical methods of its prevention, to help preserve this desirable condition and to create interest in eradicating the disease from swine and poultry, large numbers of which are still affected.

**RELATIONSHIP AMONG PRODUCTION AND GRADE FACTORS OF BEEF**, by O. G. Hankins, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and L. B. Burk, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Technical Bulletin No. 665. 37 pp. Illustrated. Write Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 10 cents. The booklet reports on a study of the "relationships (1) of certain productive factors, such as initial weight, final weight, total gain, and rate of gain, to composite grade or the grade of the individual and to certain grade factors of the animals and their carcasses and (2) among grade factors themselves."

# ROUND THE RANGE

## WESTERN LIVE STOCK AND RANGE REPORT

**A** SHARP DROP IN WESTERN states' range condition during July, when high temperatures and dryness scorched much of the Great Plains, was tempered to the extent of "some improvement in Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, the Dakotas, and Montana since August 1," according to the Denver regional office of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Up to August 15, range and pasture condition in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho declined. Local areas improved in Arizona and Nebraska.

Cattle generally were in good condition except in local dry areas, from which some early movement may be forced, as has already been the case in dry spots in Wyoming, western South Dakota, and Colorado. Sheep condition

generally is good, but shipments will be early from dry areas.

Summary of condition by states as of August 15 follows:

*Arizona*.—Ranges generally need moisture, although scattered rains helped local areas except west and northwest expect lighter calves than usual when marketed; no summer fat lambs to move; fall lambs will be lighter.

**California.**—Ranges seasonally dry and below normal; stock water and native range feed short in many areas; feed-stuffs generally ample; some stock shrink in range areas; liberal lamb marketing from late ranges; lamb weights and quality much below last year.

**Colorado.**—Range conditions low; some improvement from showers and coolness in local mountain and valley spots; dry ranges forcing some early movement.

*Idaho*.—Short dry feed on low ranges; hay and feed crops good; high ranges fair; stock showing some shrink; rapid lamb movement at lower weights.

# Domino-Beau Mischief

# HEREFORD BULLS

## J. M. CAREY & BROTHER

# Haley-Smith Cattle Company

### **Sterling, Colorado**

**Registered Hereford cows and heifers of all ages  
We always have bulls**

**REGISTERED  
HEREFORD CATTLE**

**Choicest blood-lines; outstanding individuals; raised under actual range conditions**

**T. E. MITCHELL & SON**  
**Tequesquite Ranch**  
**ALBERT, NEW MEXICO**

**Kansas.**—Rain improved crops and ranges except in local western areas; Flint Hill pastures good with ample moisture and stock water; feed carryover probably sufficient in range area; some western supplemental feeding.

**Montana.**—July heat injured some ranges; local rains have helped; fall and winter feed prospects good; stock little affected; stock water generally ample.

**Nebraska.**—Western ranges conditions dropped in July, but rain and coolness helped some areas; feed grains will be short in many areas; some grasshopper damage; good feed in Sand Hills; cattle good.

**Nevada.**—Ranges continue dry but fairly good feed growth; rain needed.

**New Mexico.**—Rains improved ranges and feed except in local north and western areas; late summer and fall prospects good; stock held up well except in dry spots; very little calf and lamb contracting for fall delivery.

**North Dakota.**—Hot July damaged range and pasture but showers helped these and late feeds; generally ample feeds; flies and heat took off some cattle flesh.

**Oklahoma.**—Rain needed, but some pasture and feed improvement in local areas; Osage pastures good; others dry with fair to good feed; some cattle shrinkage in south; some scarcity stock water.

**Oregon.**—Ranges declined; no rain; short dry feed in most lower and intermediate areas; fall feed prospects poor; stock fair considering bad range; more lambs than usual will go as feeders; dry carryover makes feed supply generally ample.

**South Dakota.**—Local rains improved range; feed supplies only fair in some western spots; east greatly improved; some forced movement from southwest.

**Texas.**—Late July and August rains improved ranges and late feeds; some spots need rain.

**Utah.**—Range condition down sharply during July but showers helped some ranges; more rain needed; high ranges fair to good; stock condition fairly good, but short range feed will force some early movement.

**Washington.**—Lower ranges much poorer than last year; mountain areas good; rain needed for full feed; cattle better than expected; lamb weights better than expected.

**Wyoming.**—Good feed on high and northern ranges; low ranges continued dry and poor in southern, central, and east-central sections; some stock forced to move from dry spots.

## BULLETINS IN BRIEF

**THE LAMB CROP OF 1939 IS ESTIMATED** by the Agricultural Marketing Service at 31,867,000 head—1 per cent smaller than the record crop of 1938 but larger than in any other year, 8 per cent greater than the 1928-37 average, and 4 per cent over the 1934-38 average. The decrease is the result of the smaller crop in the western sheep states, estimat-

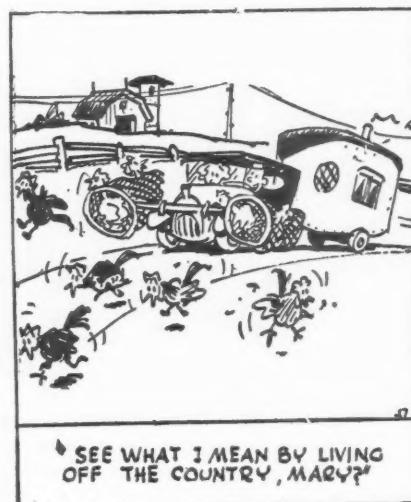
ed at 20,780,000, due largely to a sharp drop in Texas. This compares with 21,161,000 in 1938 and the five-year average of 19,487,000. It is the third largest crop on record for these states. However, the native crop was a little larger than in 1938—11,087,000 head, compared with 10,996,000 last year and 11,133,000 for the five-year average. Percentage lamb crop in the western states was 81.0, compared with 83.9 last year and 76.4 for the ten-year average. The percentage in the native states was 98.9 this year, compared with 99.7 in 1938.

## PRIVATE TRUCKS

After extensive hearings held throughout the country, Examiner R. W. Snow of the Federal Bureau of Motor Carriers has come to the conclusion that there is need for federal regulation of "private carriers of property" to promote safety of operation on our highways. Factual differences in the operation of farm trucks justify the following exceptions from the present safety rules, Examiner Snow says: (1) Individuals between eighteen and twenty-one years should be permitted to drive farm trucks of not over 10,000 pounds gross; (2) the rule requiring medical examinations should not apply to farmers; (3) forbidding transportation of passengers should not apply to farm trucks; (4) fifty hours per week should be fixed as the limit for drivers of farm trucks.

## SHELTERBELT

More than 42,000,000 trees in 4,500 miles of new windbreaks were planted in 1939 under the prairie states forestry project, according to the Forest Service. Plantings since 1935 total more than 127,000,000 trees in over 11,000 miles of field windbreaks on 20,000 farms in eastern counties of the Dakotas, central and western Nebraska, central Kansas and Oklahoma, and the Texas Panhandle. . . . The entire cost to the federal government of this year's planting of field windbreaks in the prairie states forestry project is being kept to about 5½ cents a tree or shrub.



## NEW U. S. BEEF GRADES

Revised standards for grading beef became effective July 16. Tentatively issued by the Department of Agriculture last March, the new standards are: U. S. Prime, U. S. Choice, U. S. Good, U. S. Commercial, U. S. Utility, U. S. Cutter, U. S. Canner. These are practically the same as the tentative standards (see May, 1939, PRODUCER, page 5), except that "U. S. Commercial" is substituted for "U. S. Standard" and "U. S. Utility" for "U. S. Commercial." The revised standards differ from the standards formerly used primarily in that beef produced from steers, heifers and cows is graded on a single standard, on the basis of its characteristics as beef, instead of on separate standards for each class of beef. Beef formerly graded as "choice cow," for example, was not comparable with choice steer, or choice heifer beef. But on the revised standards such beef is graded as "commercial beef," and in value to the consumer is comparable with steer and heifer beef of the same grade.

## STRIKES

The packer strike situation causing alarm in recent weeks to live-stock shippers has calmed down. Important in recent developments was action of the Packing-house Workers' Organization Committee of the CIO in Chicago, in abandoning its demand to Armour and Company for a "national contract" (one contract to cover employees at all its plants). The committee asked for a meeting to talk bargaining on an individual plant basis instead. . . . A strike at the Swift plant in San Francisco involves as the main issue the refusal of the company to adopt the check-off system (to make deductions for union dues from pay checks for all employees and to deliver the funds to A. F. of L. officials). . . . Some other strikes: A week's strike at the yards in Fort Worth, Texas, has been settled; a "milk strike" by the Dairy Farmers' Union for higher prices in the New York City milkshed—also settled. . . . The National Association of Manufacturers reports that a recent nation-wide survey made by it showed that 61 per cent of the public—and 50.7 per cent of factory workers alone—are opposed to forcing every worker to join a labor union.

## EXPORTS DROP

Exports of American agricultural products to European countries dropped sharply in the first six months of 1939. This loss of agricultural trade was largely responsible for a general drop of 11 per cent in exports in this period compared with the same period of 1938. The decrease was accompanied by a 14 per cent increase in imports during the first six months. Total value of American exports, including re-exports, was \$1,415,427,000 for this period, compared with \$1,590,788,000. Imports for the same period were \$1,094,563,000 in 1939,

as compared with \$960,955,000 in 1938. Exports of grain were valued at less than \$40,000,000 for the first six months, while such exports for the corresponding period of 1938 were well over \$120,000,000. Relatively small were the exports of cotton.

#### TRAILERS OF THE RANGE

Modern apartments on wheels are being used by range examiners of the Division of Grazing in covering remote territories in fifty federal grazing districts in the West, it was reported recently to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes by Director of Grazing R. H. Rutledge. Equipped with cooking, sleeping, and office facilities, the trailer apartment, hitched to an automobile, is proving an important factor in gathering information essential to the program of the division. Use of the rolling homes on the range in Wyoming has resulted in a 25 per cent increase in the efficiency and effectiveness of the examination work, with a substantial reduction in the cost per unit of work done.

#### CAMERAS FOR BRANDS

As an additional aid in detecting "doctored" cattle brands, Wyoming brand inspectors are now provided with cameras. These machines frequently furnish the evidence required to convict cattle thieves. For the first time in the history of the western live-stock industry, as far as is known, the camera is being used to assist the stockmen in identifying blotched brands which are often indicative of the work of rustlers. Russell Thorp, executive secretary of Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, said his organization has provided cameras to its cattle and brand inspectors located at Denver, Salt Lake, Ogden, Sioux City, Omaha, St. Joseph and Chicago live-stock markets.

#### WAR ON RATS

Farmers should prepare for a war next November on rats. That's the advice given by rodent-control experts of the Bureau of Biological Survey. During the summer rats scatter throughout the farm, the experts point out. Empty storage houses and corn cribs are relatively free of rodents. Farmers and others who store corn and grains for winter use can keep rat populations and storage losses at a minimum by taking the following precautions: Clean and rat-proof all storage houses and corn cribs now, before the bins are filled. Remove all trash that may be around barns, for these are places where rats often hide.

#### LIVE STOCK BREEDS

Recent experiments indicate that digester tankage and meat scraps are satisfactory for feeding beef cattle, according to tests made by several experiment stations, the Institute of American Meat

Packers points out. Although stock cattle cannot eat enough of the different roughages, except good quality legume hay, to obtain enough protein for satisfactory weight gains, the high protein contents of the best grades of digester tankage balance the feeding ration satisfactorily. Only a relatively small amount of tankage is necessary, it is stated, and cattle soon accommodate themselves to the eating of this small addition to their feed. . . . A new industry—manufacture of dried citrus pulp—is a source of thousands of dollars income to Florida growers. The new product, which is resulting in a great saving to dairymen, utilizes the pulp and refuse from grapefruit, oranges, and tangerines. It is considered an ideal feed for cows. Quality of the by-product virtually is eliminating necessity for importation of dried beet pulp, formerly used as a dairy feed in Florida.

#### SALES TAX EXEMPTION VETOED

Stockmen of California were disappointed by the refusal of Governor Olsen to sign two bills which would have exempted live stock from the state sales tax. The bills had previously passed both houses of legislature unanimously. They would have clarified the sales tax law to exempt all human food, including cattle that eventually are used for food.

#### MEAT MOVES 1,000 MILES

A study by the agricultural research department of Swift & Company shows that about 63 per cent of the cattle are raised west of the Mississippi, while about 70 per cent of the beef is consumed east of the Mississippi; that about 50 per cent of the hogs are raised west of the Mississippi, while about 70 per cent of the pork is consumed east of the Mississippi; that over 80 per cent of the lambs are raised west of the Mississippi, while about 78 per cent of the lamb is consumed east of the Mississippi. The average pound of meat is moved about 1,000 miles from where it is produced to where it is consumed.

#### CHIEF CAUSES OF FIRE

According to recent engineering reports, the principal causes of farm fires, named in the order of their importance, are: Defective chimneys and heating apparatus, sparks on combustible roofs, lightning, carelessness in use of matches and smoking, spontaneous ignition, gasoline and kerosene, misuse of electricity.

#### CORN VALUE ENHANCED

One acre of corn fed to cattle as dry fodder is worth \$38.31, while one acre of corn in the trench or upright silo is worth \$52.65, according to tests conducted at the Colorado State College experiment station. A cattle feeding demonstration completed at Delta, Colorado, a little more than a year ago showed that

when silage was added to the ration it resulted in an increase in the daily gain per head and a decrease in the cost of gains. "In times of drought," according to R. C. Tom, associated in animal investigations at the college, "a trench silo enables a stockman to use all his forage crops and to turn dry forage and fodder into juicy, palatable feed. A trench silo enables a grower to save all his immature corn crop which would be of very little value if it were allowed to dry."

#### PREMIUM LIST READY

The general live-stock premium list of the Pacific International Live Stock Exposition to be held in Portland, Oregon October 7 to 14 is now ready for distribution and may be had by addressing 308 Wilcox Building, Portland, Oregon. Cash premiums from all sources will amount to approximately \$100,000. Railroads and stages will feature low fares during the exposition. O. M. Plummer is general manager of the exposition.

#### ISAAC T. EARL of Boulder, Colorado Disperses His Hereford Herd

SEPTEMBER 28, 1939

At ranch 6 miles north of Boulder on Boulder-to-Lyons road  
2 Herd Bulls—U Prince 3rd 211843 and WHR Jupiter Domino 4th 2221977.  
90 cows—20 unbred yearling heifers; 15 cows over 7 years old, most have calves; 14 coming 3-year-olds dropping calves now to service of Witwer's Benefactor; 46 cows with calves or to calve, under 7 years; 17 choice long yearling bulls.

ASK FOR CATALOG  
A 480-a. tract, 5 miles north of Boulder will be offered.  
ISAAC T. EARL, Boulder, Colo.

#### Auction Every Monday

We can sell your feeder cattle, fat hogs, stock pigs at top prices. Horse and mule auction on Wednesdays. The Grand Island Live Stock Commission Company is an old, established firm, operating under the U. S. Department of Agriculture and bonded for your protection. Situated in the best feeding country in Nebraska. Write or wire for market information.

Grand Island  
Live Stock Commission Co.  
Grand Island, Neb.  
John (Jack) Torpey, Pres.-Gen. Mgr.  
On Highway U. S. 30 and both  
U. P. and Burlington

#### MONTANA TYPE Polled Herefords

Mean quality . . . weight . . . for age and feed consumed. An output of 400 head per year means more and better cattle to select from and at less cost to you.

Visit us. Let's get acquainted.  
Roberts Loan and Cattle Co.  
WM. SPIDEL, President  
Box 1098 Roundup, Mont.

## FEEDSTUFF PRICES

Cottonseed cake and meal was quoted on August 24 at \$23 a ton, f. o. b. Dallas. Hay prices, carlot, on August 18 at Omaha were: Alfalfa—No. 1, \$11.50 to \$12.50; standard leafy, \$10.50 to \$11;

## CARLOT FEEDSTUFFS

When you want a price on a CARLOT of COTTONSEED CAKE OR PELLETS

LINSEED MEAL OR PELLETS  
SOYBEAN MEAL OR PELLETS

Delivered your station. Wire, phone or write  
**ARCH SALES COMPANY**  
STOCKYARDS  
DENVER, COLO.

standard, \$10 to \$10.50; No. 2, \$9.50 to \$10; No. 3, \$8.50 to \$9.50; sample, \$6 to \$8; upland prairie—No. 1, \$9 to \$10.50; No. 2, \$7 to \$8; midland prairie—No. 1, \$8.50 to \$9; No. 2, \$7 to \$8; mixed—No. 1, \$9 to \$10.50; No. 2, \$7.50 to \$8.50; No. 3, \$6 to \$7.

## WILL PLANT FILAREE

About 8,000 acres of range lands in Grazing District No. 1 in Utah will be planted with filaree seed this year. It is believed by grazing officials that practically all public ranges in the area can be seeded satisfactorily with the filaree, a native of California. Success of the experiment should greatly increase value of the range area, it is believed.

## DO COLT'S LEGS GROW?

Are colts born with a fully developed length of leg, queries *Wallace's Farmer*, and answers: Some people are of the opinion that this is the case. Actually a colt at birth has only about three-fifths of its mature height, according to animal husbandry authorities at the North Dakota experiment station. At nine months of age, a colt has increased in height and has acquired about half its eventual mature weight. On the basis of the North Dakota findings, it is possible to predict at an early age the size and weight a horse will have when fully grown.

## MEAT INDUSTRY BIG

Production, marketing, processing, and distribution of the nation's meat supply is one of the largest and most important industries in the United States. It is estimated that approximately one person out of every six gainfully employed is engaged in some phase of the livestock and meat industry, according to the Lexington (Kentucky) *Herald*. About half the farm land in the United States is devoted to the production of pasture, forage, and feed-grain crops utilized in producing live stock. Cash farm income from the sale of meat animals is greater than for any other single farm commodity.

## WORLD DAIRY INDUSTRY GROWS

The dairy industry the world over has expanded greatly the past thirty years. A report by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics shows that for twenty-one leading countries butter production averaged nearly 6,700,000,000 pounds a year during 1931-35, as compared with less than 4,500,000,000 average for 1909-13. The United States is the leading butter-producing country, and accounted during 1931-35 for more than one-third the total for the twenty-one countries. Germany is the second leading producing country, but annual output is much smaller than in the United States.

## FIRST WILD LIFE REFUGE

The first federal wild life refuge resulted from a fashion for feathers in women's hats. Early in the century that fashion made extermination of many valuable birds seem imminent, and this threat resulted in the Pelican Island Refuge off the Florida east coast, created March 14, 1903, by President Theodore Roosevelt. Today the Bureau of Biological Survey administers 250 national wild life refuges, totaling close to 12,000,000 acres. Of these, 136 are for migratory waterfowl, sixty for other migratory birds, and ten for big game.

## FREIGHT RATES

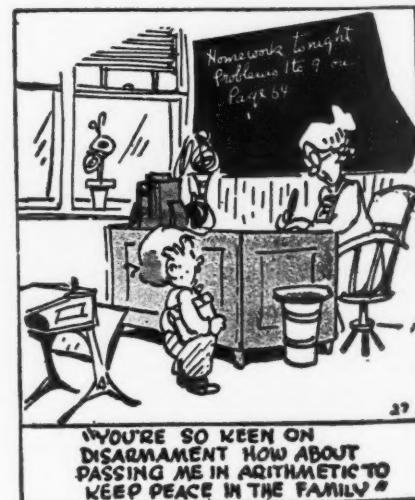
Beef cattle are at the top of the list in this comparison of indexes of farm prices and freight rates (the 5 per cent increases recently authorized are not included) for beef cattle, sheep, hogs, wheat, cotton (1913=100):

| Commodity         | Farm Prices | Freight Rates |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Beef cattle ..... | 118         | 156           |
| Sheep .....       | 98          | 141           |
| Hogs .....        | 127         | 145           |
| Wheat .....       | 121         | 138           |
| Cotton .....      | 67          | 101           |

## RETAIL OPERATING COSTS

Meat markets in the United States use 25 per cent of their net sales to pay their operating costs, according to a survey of distribution costs for the Twentieth Century Fund, we read in the *New York Times*. Grocers (without meats) use 20 per cent, combination stores (groceries and meats), 18 per cent. The average retail establishment in the United States uses 25 per cent of its net sales to pay operating costs.

We enjoy reading the PRODUCER and have taken it for several years. We would not want to miss an issue.—MILTON SLAVIN, Lemhi County, Idaho.



**29th Annual PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION**

with  
**HORSE SHOW**  
and **RODEO**  
PORTLAND, OREGON  
October 7 to 14  
19 Shows in One  
Eleven acres under one roof. Exhibits of pure-bred Livestock, Dogs, Poultry, Pet Stock, Wild Life, Manufactured and Land Products, 4-H Club and Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Work; also the Horse Show, Indoor Rodeo and Royal Canadian Mounted Police.  
Large Premium Lists  
**LOW FARES—ALL LINES**

**GLOBE** **GLOBE**  
**WESTERN STRAIN**  
**Vaccine (Chick)**  
**ENCEPHALOMYELITIS**  
**SLEEPING SICKNESS**  
**GLOBE LABORATORIES**  
FORT WORTH  
MEMPHIS LITTLE ROCK  
KANSAS CITY DENVER

## SEES BASIC CHANGE IN MEAT MERCHANDISING

MOST OF THE MEAT SOLD TO American housewives in years to come will be put up as packaged merchandise if the current trend in the quick-frozen foods industry may be used as a guide, according to Eden T. Gibson, president of the Frosted Food Sales Corporation, who recently spoke at a conference on live-stock marketing at the American Institute of Co-operation in Chicago.

"I feel quite certain that we shall live to see the day when almost any meat purchased at a retail store will be wrapped in a convenient consumer-size container. Not only will packaged meats allow for greater ease in handling in distribution and warehousing, but they will alter the basic plan for merchandising. Already, chopped steak, rib and loin lamb chops, calf liver, and sausage are being quick-frozen in packages for retail consumption."

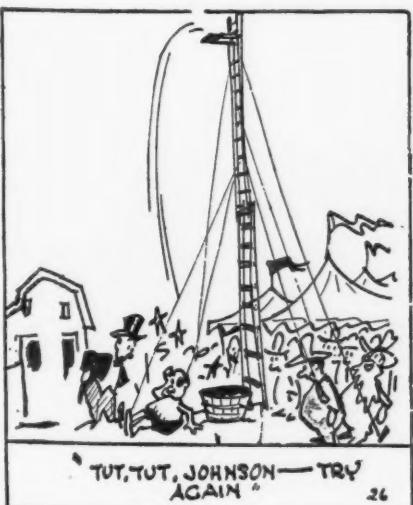
Several European countries are already successfully experimenting with quick-frozen meats, Mr. Gibson said. "America stands ready to help them launch their products commercially with equipment and advice, for we have preceded European packers in this enterprise. Gradual international participation in this new industry is forecast."

## MORE CATTLE FROM MEXICO IN FIRST HALF PERIOD

MEXICO MADE A MUCH LARGER contribution to imports of cattle and calves into the United States during the first six months of 1939 than did Canada, and the number imported from Mexico was much larger than in the like 1938 period.

Imports in the first half of 1939 totaled 482,809 head, of which 343,805 came from Mexico and 138,738 from Canada. In the 1938 period, the total was 239,878 head, with 186,665 supplied by Mexico and 52,807 by Canada.

Bulk of imports from Canada this



year and last have been calves weighing under 200 pounds, while bulk of the Mexican cattle weighed between 200 and 700 pounds.

Imports of cattle and calves for the first six months of 1939 and 1938 are reported by the Department of Agriculture as follows:

|                      | Six months 1939 | Six months 1938 |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Canada—              |                 |                 |
| Over 700 lbs.....    | 86,382          | 22,480          |
| 200-700 lbs.....     | 3,205           | 2,291           |
| Under 200 lbs.....   | 49,151          | 28,036          |
| Total.....           | 138,738         | 52,807          |
| Mexico—              |                 |                 |
| Over 700 lbs.....    | 36,783          | 25,628          |
| 200-700 lbs.....     | 278,451         | 159,172         |
| Under 200 lbs.....   | 28,571          | 1,865           |
| Total.....           | 343,805         | 186,665         |
| Other countries..... | 266             | 406             |
| Total imports.....   | 482,809         | 239,878         |

Canadian exports of calves to the United States are rapidly approaching the total of 100,000 head at which the higher rate of duty will apply. Imports of calves from January 1 to August 8 amounted to 92,640 head, which represents 92.64 per cent of the annual quota.

## MEAT BOARD FAIR EXHIBIT SEASON STARTS

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR WAS THE starting point on August 12 for the 1939 meat exhibits of the National Live Stock and Meat Board to be made at fairs and live-stock expositions. The exhibits will be featured from coast to coast, culminating at the International Live Stock Exposition in Chicago the first week of December. Last year fifty-eight meat exhibits were installed at various events and were visited by more than 6,000,000 persons.

A theme for some of the major exhibits this year is, "Meat Keeps Pace with Modern Living." This theme is emphasized in displays devoted to meat merchandising, meat cookery, meat in nutrition, and other subjects.

As an innovation in displays, the subject of carving receives attention. Housewives, as well as husbands who sometimes fail at the task of carving the family roast, will be interested in wax models and illustrative material which depict the steps in carving of various meats. These show how to carve correctly and bring out that the correct way is the easy way.

The outstanding position of lard, as one of the major products of the live-stock and meat industry, is being given deserved recognition on the year's meat exhibit program.

Completing the list of displays is one which emphasizes the value of sausage, based on such factors as appetite appeal and variety in the meal.

Members of the Board's staff will be present at the various exhibits, and meat literature covering various topics of interest to housewives, retailers, and the public generally will be available.

## LETTERS

### MADE TO ORDER

You put out one of the best cattlemen's magazines that I know. Our section is south-central Texas—Colorado and Wharton counties—the best part of Texas. Range and crop conditions could not be better if they had been ordered. We have good cotton, rice, and feed crops, with ideal harvest weather, and range conditions this summer are the best we have had in years. In fact, we have everything but money, and do not need that except at tax-paying time.—I. V. DUNCAN, Colorado County, Tex.

### DROUGHT BROKEN

Serious drought beginning early in May was broken August 6 with a two-inch rain. Early lambs went about one-half feeders and five pounds light. Some depletion in breeding stock will be necessary.—HOWARD H. DODD, Dawes Co., Neb.

### BURNED UP

We are having awfully dry weather here. Everything is burned; water very scarce. Your magazine is fine.—J. W. DAVIS, Union County, Ore.



Leases, insurance policies, deeds, stock certificates, or other papers proving your ownership of property should have the protection of a safety deposit box. The cost is less than 10 cents a week.



Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

## "WHERE TO BUY" ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Twenty-five cents a line, except display space. Normally seven words to a line. Display rates on request. Forms close 15th. Send copy to 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado.



### LOOKING FOR A RANCH? Here it is—

3,260 acres of well improved land located 15 miles southeast of Durango in LaPlata County, Colorado. Ample stock water from Florida River and 300 acres in irrigation. Entire ranch is well protected for winter use.

We have several ranches in Colorado and New Mexico available at favorable terms and low interest rates.

See or write us for further information.

**The Federal Land Bank  
of Wichita**  
Wichita, Kansas  
or  
**EARL COBURN, Representative**  
2120 Greenwood Street, Pueblo, Colo.

### FOR LEASE

#### 13,550-Acre Ranch With Headquarters

Fenced into 3 separate pastures and rented separately if desired; well watered and tributary to Amarillo, Texas.

#### Estate of William H. Bush

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**CROOK COUNTY**; 2,455 acres; 33 miles west from Belle Fourche, South Dakota; on graded road; 1 mile to school; well developed ranching area; black mountain loam; 360 acres alfalfa and crop land, 320 acres hay land, balance pasture; reservoirs, spring and 2 creeks furnish water; wood and posts plentiful; buildings include dwelling, two barns, smoke, granary and wood house, granary and cook house, shop and fruit cellar, all in good condition. Favorable terms. Other farms and ranches in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. Still time to gain possession for 1940. Illustrated book on request. Write today. Federal Land Bank of Omaha, Dept. A-C, Omaha, Nebraska.

#### RANCH FOR SALE

14,000 acres Nebraska, wet meadows, sand hill pasture. Additional 2,500 acres lease land. Down payment \$1.50 per acre. Yearly principal payment 15¢ per acre. Interest 5%.

Harry White, Realtor  
Oskaloosa, Iowa

## RANCHES

### "Cheaper to buy than to lease"

In closing the Estate of the late W. G. McIntosh we are offering

160,000 acres of improved ranch land in any sized tracts at extremely low prices.

Any stockman planning on running live stock for any length of time owes it to himself and his business to inquire about our land prices and ten-year contract for purchase.

FOR INFORMATION AND PRICES CONTACT

#### J. BRUCE ORCUTT

Ranch Manager

#### BEAVERSLIDE RANCH

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Phone at Ranch

RANCHES, large or small, for sale, exchange, or lease, in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, California, Canada, Central and South America, Africa, and islands of the sea. J. D. FREEMAN, Gunter Building, San Antonio, Texas.

#### A GOOD NORTHERN CATTLE RANCH

It is a good one, consisting of 6,050 acres deeded land and 2,500 acres leased land. Controls a large government reserve. Forest permit for 500 head breeding cows and calves. Ranch will carry 1,000 head and winter 500 head. Cuts over 500 tons hay. Good improvements. This entire property is located in one of the scenic parts of the state where grazing is unusually good, feeding season short, and living conditions delightful. Come and see it. You will like it.

Price very low because closing an estate.  
LEE A. REYNOLDS LAND COMPANY  
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#### GOING NEVADA CATTLE RANCHES

66,000 acres with 16,000 acres irrigated meadows; 3 sets of buildings in fine condition; equipment, including 5,200 head HEREFORD cattle; 80 horses, mules. \$325,000. 12,000 acres; 7,000 acres irrigated meadow; 3 sets excellent buildings; 1,400 DURHAM and HEREFORD cattle; horses; equipment. Complete, \$130,000.

JULIUS LEMLE,  
127 Montgomery St., San Francisco, Calif.

HARDY Recleaned ALFALFA Seed, \$9.90; Grimm Alfalfa, \$10.90; Sweet Clover, \$3.90. All 60-lb. bushel, track Concordia, Kansas. Return Seed if not satisfied. GEO. BOWMAN, Concordia, Kansas.

## DANGEROUSLY HIGH

Just a word to tell you how much enjoyment and information I get from the PRODUCER. I think if we cattle feeders could all read your paper we would have a different idea of the cattleman's problems. Feeding cattle look dangerously high at this time. Most of our feeders are inclined to go slow at present prices. Crops have been above average here, but farther north and east of our county (Kalamazoo) lack of moisture has been responsible for smaller yields than usual.—REESE R. VAN VRANKEN, president, Michigan Cattle Feeders' Ass'n, Climax, Mich.

## GRASS GOOD

Would hate to do without the PRODUCER. Conditions are very good here this year relative to grass and feed for live-stock, but excessive hot weather has cut the wheat yield to less than half what it looked about two weeks ago. Looks like about 10 or 12 bushels now. Fat steers are selling at a nickel. Lots of lambs this spring and they look like 6 cents this fall.—C. A. JARBOE, Bindloss, Alta., Canada.

## CONDITIONS IMPROVED

I like Poole's column on the cattle situation very much. Conditions are greatly improved in this part of the country. I have had five inches of rain on my ranch in the past thirty days. Our grass is the best we have had in ten years. Crop prospects are not so good, as crops are all very late.—JERRY B. MINTER, Dallam County, Tex., August 9.

## LIGHT CALVES

We have had good rains in this section of the country and cattle are in good shape. Our calves are going to be light on account of the dry hot summer, but they are bringing 8 cents for heifers and 9 cents for steers. Cows and calves are selling for \$65 to \$75; but not too many cattle in the country. I could not do without THE PRODUCER.—M. E. SIBLEY, Reeves County, Tex.

## EARLIER MOVEMENT

Recent rains have helped the range, and cattle are doing well, but I look for an earlier movement of live stock to market than usual. The hay crop is below normal in Eagle County, and some predict \$8 to \$10 hay this fall. Grain is about normal as nearly as I can learn.—F. O. NEWCOMER, Eagle Co., Colo., August 9.

## GOOD RAINS

Good rains this week—very beneficial to pastures and sorghums. There will be good chance now for early wheat pasture. There should be big yield on milo and kaffir.—V. L. GOLTRY, Garfield Co., Okla., August 10.

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